

Farmers led up garden path by EEC policies, Jopling says

By John Young, Agriculture Correspondent

The widening split between farmers and the Government was highlighted at the Royal Show at Stoneleigh yesterday. After a meeting with Mr Michael Jopling, Minister of Agriculture, Sir Richard Butler, president of the National Farmers' Union, complained that the industry was being undermined.

Sir Richard made clear that farmers' anger and concern was not directed solely at the imposition of dairy quotas. Their position in all sectors was unhappy and uncertain, and the Government was offering no reassurances about their future.

Mr Jopling, who was on the defensive at a press conference later, said he could understand perfectly well why farmers were upset. But they must learn from the experience of the decision to cut milk production, and the Government would not allow wasteful production of any commodity to continue at taxpayers' expense.

Farmers had been quite wrongly led up the garden path by EEC policies, Mr Jopling said.

What the EEC was doing in moving to curb surpluses should have been done long ago, he said. The present situation should never have been allowed to happen.

Asked whether his predecessor, Mr Peter Walker, had

sum to decrease production

leaked by an employee and passed to *The Times*. Mr James Jenkins, the company's production director, yesterday said some of the statements in it had been taken out of context. The Humber plant was merely seeking to recover more of its waste for reprocessing, he added.

CV Polymers makes synthetic resin for the paint and plastics industry and, according to Mr Jenkins, does not handle anything in any way toxic or obnoxious".

Disclosure of the memorandum has drawn criticisms from both Greenpeace, the environmental group, and Mr Alan Tellow, chief scientist at the Anglian Water Authority.

"Frankly I am astonished", Mr Tellow said. "I think it is an irresponsible attitude."

Farmer sues for damages

A Scottish farmer whose land is contaminated, and whose cows have been dying of a mysterious disease is suing a local chemical waste factory for £1m damages, his lawyer said yesterday.

Mr Andrew Graham, who farms 300 acres around Bonnybridge, near Glasgow, is leading local protests about the Re-Chem international re-processing plant. Concor has been expressed about malformed babies, cancer cases and dying animals. Tests have found traces of dioxin in Mr Graham's soil.

Whitehall pay offer rejected

By David Felton

Labour Correspondent

Leaders of public service unions, representing four million workers, meet today to draw up a strategy for the next pay round after the civil servants' overwhelming rejection of the Government's 4.5 per cent pay offer and the immediate rejection of an improved offer to 250,000 health service workers.

The TUC public services committee will review the progress of the campaign to break the Government's 3 per cent pay guidelines and will issue a set of negotiating principles.

Their deliberations will take place against the background of reports from Civil Service unions that 500,000 white-collar members have rejected an average 4.5 per cent offer by margins of 5-1 to 8-1 in consultation exercises over the past three weeks.

Leaders of the nine Civil Service unions will call today for fresh negotiations with the Treasury to push the offer nearer to 6 per cent, said by the Office of Manpower Economics to be the going rate

Schools may get political bias code

By Colin Hughes

The Government is considering issuing guidelines for schools on political bias in the classroom, particularly in controversial subjects such as race studies.

A deputation led by Lady Olga Maitland, chairman of Women and Families for Defence, yesterday presented Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education and Science, with a case file of 60 recent complaints received from teachers, parents, and pupils, alleging political bias in teaching.

Sir Keith told the group, accompanied by Lady Cox and Dr John Marks, that he was anxious to encourage more parents to inform him personally of allegations of bias.

Lady Olga said it came as "something of a surprise" to the Secretary of State that "political indoctrination" in the classroom was as widespread as her files suggested. She showed him several "posters for peace" put up on school notice boards by teachers and cited examples of pupils and teachers who felt so intimidated in their class and staff rooms that they dare not speak out.

Farmer's attempt to plough wild marshes thwarted

Conservationists chained themselves to a bulldozer and a mechanical digger at Halvergate Marshes on the Norfolk Broads yesterday to stop 90 acres of land being ploughed up.

About 30 demonstrators stopped work on the grade one pasture owned by Mr David Wright. The marshes are the largest expanse of wild wetland in Britain.

Strike-bound pit is being reclaimed by nature

By David Young
Energy Correspondent

Nature is reclaiming itself at the Seafield Colliery, on the Firth of Forth as essential work lies untouched because of the miners' strike.

Above ground the lawns and flower beds around the colliery offices are being strangled by weeds. Below the massive crushing force of rock threatens to sever one of the pits' main arteries.

For the management it is a time of intense frustration. Daily inspections show that basically the pit is in good shape, but one vital roadway to a recently opened face is collapsing.

At the LO1 face £4.5m of equipment has lain idle for almost 20 weeks - Seafield had a local strike for three weeks before the national dispute. The machinery is gradually being covered by a layer of rust, with dampness seeping into electric motors and connections.

The coal face, which runs upwards at an angle of more than 30 degrees for 154 metres, sparkles and shines in the light of the lamps worn by the management men who check for gas, movement and spontaneous combustion.

By contrast the steel teeth of the coal-shearing machine, which can rip 240 tonnes of high-quality coal from the face every traverse, are dull orange with rust.

The "maingate" roadway to the LO1 coal face normally 10ft high and 14ft wide, has been reduced by roof falls and upward pressure to less than



half its normal width and height in many areas. The steel girder supports, six inches by five inches thick, have buckled and snapped in many areas along the 360-metre roadway. The floor and roof have converged, to destroy the rail tracks used to bring equipment up to the coal face.

pressure, resulting in broken and distorted roadway girders and broken temporary supports.

Temporary supports are required to stabilize the roof areas mentioned with further backfilling and the setting of new roadway girder supports.

The inspection took place on April 10. Since then the situation has worsened with a roadway which normally measures 14 feet wide by 10 feet high reduced in many areas to half that.

The rail lines on the floor have buckled and twisted as the floor has risen. The arch support girders, made from six-inch by five-inch steel sections, have buckled and snapped. In many areas the only way for a man to pass through is by clambering along the cold conveyor or squeezing through a tangled mass of girders.

The management has also been asked if it would consider giving voluntary redundancy to

about a dozen miners nearing retirement who see the scheme as a way of leaving with a substantial cash bonus.

The Seafield pit, sunk between 1954 and 1959, brings about five million tons a year from the steepest seams in the country. Some run at angles of 50 degrees, with temperatures above 30C.

The reserves under the Firth of Forth are massive and £32m has been allocated for further development.

Mr Caldwell said: "In fact I have got about 60 vacancies at this pit and we cannot afford to lose skilled men."

However, despite the management's frustration at the strike, anger at the strike committee's refusal to carry out essential safety work and personal outrage at picket line violence, they remain loyal to the workforce and convinced of the industry's future prospects.

Mr Caldwell said: "We produce the finest quality coal, too good for burning at power stations - and we can get down to the \$50-a-ton price often said to be the world competitive price. Our mining engineers can also hold up their heads in the company of any mining engineers in the world and so can our miners."

Board blocks acid rain move

Extra investment in coal cleaning is not a cost effective way to reduce its sulphur content, widely blamed for acid rain, Mr Ian MacGregor the coal board chairman, told the Select Committee on the Environment yesterday.

But a five gas desulphurisation unit fitted to a power station could remove 80,000 tonnes of sulphur, MPs were told.

Derbyshire police gave warning yesterday that attacks on vehicles could lead to serious injury or even death after a lorry driver was badly hurt when a brick was thrown through the windscreen of his vehicle and hit him in the face.

The incident happened at Seymour Sidings, an open-cast mine near Staveley. The lorry driver was said to have lost a lot of blood and he was detained last night in Chesterfield Royal Infirmary.

● Barristers representing three Midland NUM officials who were recently suspended from office for crossing picket lines yesterday filed a legal action against the union in the High Court.

● Nottinghamshire police at road checkpoints yesterday turned back 200 vehicles.

Kasparov wins satellite chess match

By Harry Golombek
Chess Correspondent

The first satellite chess match ended in an overwhelming victory for the Soviet grandmaster, Gary Kasparov who, aged 20, in September is to clash with the world champion Anatoly Karpov, in a match for the world championship which many believe he is likely to win.

Kasparov's opponents in this display which took place in Limehouse Studios, Canary Wharf, Isle of Dogs, were all under 20, and consisted of the five best English juniors and the five best US juniors. It was a clock simultaneous display: the simultaneous player and his opponents had to play at the rate of 20 moves an hour.

That, though regarded normally as a handicap for the giver of the display, seemed to distress his opponents more than Kasparov and he was able to produce the most brilliant moves and the most profound ideas without manifesting any signs of undue strain or pressure.

Kasparov won the contest by the score of 8½-1½, winning seven games, drawing three and losing none. He won all his games against the American players, his three draws being with Michael Adams, aged 12, the Cornish senior champion, Neil Carr, the British under-16 champion, and Gary Carr, Master of the Rolls, described as a matter of "general public importance".

The disputed money is frozen in the hands of solicitors' offices. Stevens, Bateson and Co, of Liverpool, who instructed Mr Rankin for Mr Taylor. For this reason Mr Taylor's action is directed at the solicitors, not Mr Rankin himself.

The issue is being tried by order of the Court of Appeal, where Sir John Donaldson, Master of the Rolls, described it as a matter of "general public importance".

Warning of defence bill shortfall

By Rodney Cowton

Britain may not be able to afford a quarter of its defence commitments within five years, unless government policies are changed, according to a defence economics analyst.

That view is put forward today in an article in *The Three Banks Review* by David Greenwood, director of the Centre for Defence Studies at Aberdeen University.

Forecasts such as his are leading some people to predict that there will have to be a major review of defence policy within the next few years.

The defence budget this year is set at £17,000m and planned to rise to £18,700m in 1986-87. After that there is expected to be negligible growth beyond a small allowance for inflation. On the basis of the trends up to 1986-87, Mr Greenwood estimates that the defence budget will have risen to perhaps £19,900m by 1988-89.

But he believes that the Government is not making enough allowance for inflation and other factors. He estimates that to meet the cost of all of the Government's present defence programmes, including the new Trident missile system, as much as £6,400m against an estimate of £3,000-£4,000, and "View of mountains across a lake" fetched £25,300 (estimate £2,000-£3,000). "The miracle of the loaves and fishes" by Palma Giovane made £6,820 (estimate £1,500).

At Christie's European ceramics sale yesterday an elegant white Vincennes figure symbolizing France, sold for £8,640 (estimate £1,200-£1,800).

Overseas selling prices:

Antique 20th century S & G, Canada \$2,750; China 17th-18th centuries £1,000-£1,500; Denmark, Dir. 1800-1850, Porcelain £4,000-£5,000; France 16th-17th centuries £2,000-£3,000; Germany 17th-18th centuries £1,000-£2,000; Holland 17th-18th centuries £1,000-£2,000; Italy 17th-18th centuries £1,000-£2,000; Japan 17th-18th centuries £1,000-£2,000; Portugal 17th-18th centuries £1,000-£2,000; Spain 17th-18th centuries £1,000-£2,000; Sweden 18th-19th centuries £1,000-£2,000; USA 18th-19th centuries £1,000-£2,000.

The top price of the sale was £46,200 (estimate £15,000-£25,000) for an arrester "View of a Villa" by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo. The sale made £561,620 with only 4 per cent unsold.

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'English Disneyland' plan at Battersea power station site

By Charles Knevitt and Kenneth Gosling

A huge theme park with spectacular rides, shops and restaurants are aimed at attracting three million visitors a year is planned for the Battersea power station site, south London. The multimillion pound scheme is expected to be ready by 1986.

A competition was organized by the Central Electricity Generating Board to find a viable and useful future for "the Colossus of Battersea", which ceased production March last year after 50 years' service. It has been won by the Alton Towers company, which since 1980 has run a leisure park in Staffordshire, claimed to be largest in Europe.

The result of the competition, launched last October with a £100,000 prize, will be announced today.

There was an immediate reaction to the winning entry—one of seven accepted by the assessors—by local amenity groups which wants to see a

community plan for the power station.

They claim that the Alton Towers scheme will provide a tourist attraction "of only the shallowest kind, with very little of value to the local community".

Alton Towers said visitors to the complex, which it describes as "a little bit Disneyland but in a far more English way", would be drawn not only from London and its surrounding area but from the rest of the United Kingdom, from Europe and the United States.

Most of the scheme's attractions will be under cover and will be open from 10am until 2am the next morning. There will be "theme shopping", termed as "not Tesco's or anything like that", and a three-acre Thames walkway will be created.

Last year the CEBG estimated it would cost up to £20m just to keep the old building structurally sound. The Art

Deco features of the interior will be retained.

The impressive galleried turned hall will be "themed" to resemble pre-industrial London. There will also be a haunted theatre and futuristic shows in addition to the rides.

In all, the winning scheme

will amount to London's first leisure and entertainment complex of world standard, according to the winners.

The assessors for the competition included Lord Ezra, former National Coal Board chairman, the Sir Hugh Casson, president of the Royal Academy.

Battersea power station, whose future use has been surrounded by controversy since its closure, has 30 million cubic feet of space, four chimneys and 15 acres of land.

The next stage will be for the successful developer to formally submit his scheme for outline planning permission and consent to change the use of the listed building.

Housebuyers warm to their solicitors

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

Many potential house buyers who think solicitors' fees for conveying are too high change their minds after the purchase, according to a Marketing & Opinion Research Institute poll commissioned by the Law Society.

The poll, published in this week's *Law Society Gazette* also shows that opinions about solicitors generally improve after the experience of a house purchase.

Nearly three quarters of potential buyers think solicitors' fees are too high, the survey reveals. But among recent house buyers, the image of solicitors is more favourable and only 40 per cent think the fees are too high. Almost as many, 39 per cent, disagree.

Asked whether solicitors were worth every penny you pay them, only 29 per cent of potential house buyers agreed that they were. But almost half recent house buyers thought

Royal isle up for sale at £150,000

A royal island is up for sale at £150,000. But the new "Lord" of Gugh in the Isles of Scilly will have only 37 years to enjoy the beautiful island. For in the year 2021 the lease expires and Gugh returns to the control of the Duke of Cornwall — at present the Prince of Wales.

In the meantime, the owner will possess two houses on two acres and under licence have the run of the rest of the 34-acre island.

Rift over Turner painting settled

A dispute between members of the family of the late Lord Clark of Saltwood over the sale of an important Turner painting was finally settled in the High Court in London yesterday. Mr James Leckie, counsel for Mr Colin Clark, Lord Clark's younger son, told Mr Justice Mervyn Davies that the parties had resolved their differences over "Seascape Folkestone."

The terms of the settlement were not disclosed, but Sotheby's later confirmed that the painting was still listed for auction on Thursday.

Meanwhile, Mr George

Woods, national safety officer for the NUR, called for an end to late-night single manning at some stations, personal alarms for staff, greater police presence at night and weekends and prominent warnings of fines and prison sentences for assault.

Mr Peter Burns, aged 59, who was stabbed in the eye with an iron spike on Saturday at Seven Kings station, Ilford, Essex, was critically ill on a life support machine yesterday.

Detainees have set up an incident room at Chadwell Heath police station, are looking for a white man with a scar over the right eye.

Attack blinds baby court told

An eight-week-old baby was left blind and brain damaged after being subjected to "continuous and extreme violence" by her parents, a court was told yesterday.

Doctor's examining Kimberley Arthur found a catalogue of injuries including fractures to both sides of her skull, both her arms and her collar bone.

Her parents David and Linda Arthur appeared at Hertford Crown Court yesterday and with wilfully illustrating child Lynda Arthur, aged 10, is also charged with causing her baby grievous bodily harm. They deny the charges.

Mr Gareth Edwards, who was the prosecution, said the case was an extraordinary one of extreme violence. "The injuries are consistent with the baby having been dropped from a considerable height or to her head or being swung so as to hit her head against a wall."

Mr Edwards said the case was extraordinary, because of the parents' background.

He said David Arthur, aged 21, held a position of responsibility in the Merchant Navy.

The couple lived in excellent circumstances in Mill Lane, Wirral, and had unblemished characters. They had been married for 10 years.

The trial continues today.

Princesses accused of assault plot

Two Arab princesses were accused yesterday of conspiring to beat their women servants in London.

Sheka (Princess) Saria Alisah, aged 38, and her sister Shekha Sanaya, aged 25, described as housewives from Kuwait, were sent on a £30,000 bail for trial at Knightsbridge Crown Court from Marylebone Court.

Charges against them of intentionally causing grievous bodily harm to a Sri Lankan maid, Miss Lexoni Swami, aged 20, and Miss Samali Ariffa, aged 40, at their home in Bathurst Street, Bayswater, west London, were withdrawn. But the princesses were further charged with plotting to assault the maid between July 10 and August 16 last year, in the Greater London area.

Both are also accused of assaulting Miss Ariffa, causing her actual bodily harm, and Princess Saria is charged with maliciously wounding her.

Princess Sanaya is also accused of wounding Miss Swami, and Princess Saria of causing her actual bodily harm.

The magistrate, Mr Roger Connor, ordered the sisters, as conditions of bail, to deposit £15,000 each and the deeds to their house.

Knox-Johnston dismissal unfair, tribunal rules

Mr Robin Knox-Johnston, a round-the-world yachtsman, has won his case alleging unfair dismissal from his post as a rector of Troon Marina.

The yachtsman, of Ortonline, Troon, Ayrshire, has en told of the Glasgow Tribunal's decision after a four-year hearing, but is still to be advised of the reasons for the decision and about the possibility of compensation.

The tribunal heard that rectors of Troon Marina dismissed Mr Knox-Johnston a year because of prolonged stances on yacht trips and legal debts to the company or he refused to accept an unpaid post as company chairman.

Mr Knox-Johnston responded that he would have been able to offer the kind of

Video campaign on glue sniffing

The British Adhesives and Sealants Association, representing solvent and adhesive manufacturers, are to produce two video films, one for retailers and one for schools, in a campaign intended to help prevent solvent abuse.

The films will be based on department of Health and Social Services guidelines issued for the retail trade earlier this year.

Flockton Grey man to appeal

Colin Scott Mathison, aged 46, who was involved in the Flockton Grey racing swindle, is to appeal against his conviction for conspiracy to defraud, his solicitors said yesterday. He was one of three men found guilty after a five-week trial at York Crown Court.

Bailiffs in executive-land

Executives and professionals in Spitalfields, West Midlands, one of Britain's most affluent boroughs, are increasingly finding bailiffs at the door or running up debts of up to £1,000.

Some face the enforced sale of family home, others the repossession of the family car, still others disconnection of electricity supplies.

The problem has surfaced

through the Citizens' Advice Bureau covering the borough's wealthiest areas, the Central, Knowle and Dorrington. In its annual report the bureau reveals that out of 6,890 cases dealt with last year 1,266 involved social security difficulties and 242 were appeals for help in settling debt.

The bureau says that two years ago there were no problems presented about debt and only a few for social security ones. The area's bureau



Art appreciation: Mark Tolland, aged three, who is blind, tracing the contours of "Embracing Lovers" by David Wynne at Guildhall, London, yesterday. Earlier, an exhibition of paintings by Mark and other children from the Royal National Institute for the Blind's Sunshine Nursery, north-west London, had been opened. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia).

Reward offered after railway attack

By Michael Hornsall

British Rail offered a £5,000 reward yesterday for information leading to the arrest of a man who viciously assaulted a ticket collector. After the attack the National Union of Railmen demanded more protection for staff.

Mr Peter Burns, aged 59, who was stabbed in the eye with an iron spike on Saturday at Seven Kings station, Ilford, Essex, was critically ill on a life support machine yesterday.

Meanwhile, Mr George

more than British Rail could do".

A temporary ban on late night and some weekend trains is being considered by the union.

British Rail said: "We deplore any assault on our staff who are there simply to do their duty. The £5,000 reward is an indication of what we feel I cannot recall the last time we offered one. But it's easy to say there should be more security. We have a police force and we are dependent on the cooperation of law-abiding members of the public".

Mr Burns was alone at Seven Kings station at about 11.30pm when about four men appeared. After an argument one collected a 3 ft long iron spike from some road works and stabbed Mr Burns, from Ilford, in the face. He has lost an eye and received brain damage.

Detectives have set up an incident room at Chadwell Heath police station, are looking for a white man with a scar over the right eye.

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FBI gives Yard portrait of a rapist

By John Witherow

A team of American agents from the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), known as the Mind Hunters, has given Scotland Yard help in drawing up psychological profiles of two rapists who have been attacking women central London.

After studying detailed files on the attack, the FBI has suggested to Scotland Yard that one of the men lives near the site of his first rape. As a result a special squad of 30 detectives has started questioning 4,500 people in the Kensington area with the hope of uncovering more clues about the man.

Det Supt Graham Seaby, who is in charge of the investigation, said yesterday that after a month of door-to-door inquiries the police now had a list of "people of interest".

The idea of calling for the assistance of the FBI came from Deputy Assistant Commissioner David Powis after he learned that the bureau had helped to draw up profiles of the Boston Strangler and Son of Sam. The information had assisted in the arrest of the two men.

The FBI team, working at the bureau's Behavioural Science Unit at Quantico, Virginia, compiled its report earlier this year after being sent a dossier on the 15 unsolved rapes and attempted rapes in the Notting Hill and Kensington areas during the past four years.

The FBI believes that the man is single, a "loner", inadequate, dominated by his mother, and carries out his rape as part of his fantasy life. He is probably employed in menial work such as a porter of watchmen, and almost certainly works in the evenings.

Police believe that the Kensington rapist is of medium build, between 5ft 6in and 5ft 10in tall, with short dark hair. He is between 20 and 28.

However, the FBI has not been able to give any firm new leads in the hunt for the Notting Hill rapist.

PARLIAMENT July 2 1984

One third of workforce now back at pits

COAL DISPUTE

Mr Peter Walker, Secretary of State for Energy said in the Commons at question time that more than 60,000 miners, about 30 per cent of workforce, were at work.

Answering a long series of questions about the dispute, now in its seventeenth week, Mr Walker said it was having an adverse effect on the coal industry's substantial investment programme and on market prospects.

He raised a number of demands from Labour MPs to intervene in the dispute and to call the two parties together for talks.

He said that substantial export orders were being met from continental coal producers and the campaign to persuade industrialists to convert to coal had come to a standstill.

In the same three months last year, 169 firms had agreed to convert to coal. In the three months this year, more firms had cancelled their applications than put in new ones.

Stocks of coal at power stations remained at a very high level (went on) and have reduced in recent weeks by only about 1% per cent per week.

To date, those National Coal Board employees who have been on strike have lost a total of £350m in wages.

In recent months more than 20,000 miners have expressed an interest in the Government's early retirement and voluntary redundancy schemes. Concern must be expressed at the potential geological problems in those pits that have not been in operation.

He added that Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the NCB, had expressed his willingness to continue talks with the NUM, along the lines discussed at the meeting in Edinburgh on June 8.

I will express the hope (he said) that the NUM would speedily agree to continue talks with the NCB on this basis.

Mr Richard Douglas (Dunfermline West, Lab): Could Mr Walker cease his pusillanimous posturing about this dispute and recognize that the actions of himself and Mr MacGregor, particularly over the weekend, are counter-productive.

Speaking for the miners in my area, the effect is to deepen the resolve of the miners to stay out at all costs and they will not be starved into submission.

Mr Walker's position is not to seek political advantage, but to call the parties in to see how, in the national interest, we can get a resolution to this damaging dispute.

Mr Walker: Instead of his posturing, Mr Douglas should take advantage of the talks started in Edinburgh in a constructive way — talks which the NCB are willing to pursue immediately.

Mr Trevor Skeet (North Bedfordshire, Cr): It is encouraging to see more miners in Scotland returning to work.

Will Mr Walker consider the possibility of giving a bonus to those who are at work and those prepared to defy the pickets? Would he use the measure governing secondary picketing in the 1980 and 1982 Acts?

Mr Walker: These are matters for the managerial decisions of the coal board.

Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh East, Lab): When is the Government going to recognize that this strike will only come to an end as a result of a negotiated settlement?

Does Mr Walker not understand that his speech, and particularly the Home Secretary's, at the weekend, only hinder that process?

Mr Walker: One side is willing to continue the talks, constructively, in Edinburgh, and I hope Mr Strang will support that.

On the statement by the Home Secretary — I hope all MPs would

deplore any form of the criminal activity or violence we have seen.

Mr Patrick McNaull-Wilson (New Forest, Cr): Clearly now there is little trust between the chairman of the coal board and the president of the NUM, and since the coal board has failed to get its offer of secure jobs across to the miners, does Mr Walker genuinely believe there is any possibility of these two individuals coming to an agreement?

Has he given any thought to a third party helping by keeping negotiations going?

Mr Walker: The details of the terms of negotiation are available, and would bring the dispute to a successful conclusion in the interests of the miners and the industry.

Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop (Tiverton, C): Did a large number of his constituents in energy-intensive industries like the steel industry depend for the existence of their jobs on the coal board's programme of investing in new, low-cost sources of fuel and phasing out high-cost fuel sources.

Will he (continued) not lose sight of this in any negotiations and give emphasis to this point in any publicity in the House or outside about the issues which are at stake?

Mr Walker: Yes. We can secure a good future for this country if we obtain the benefits of the Government's enormous investment programme and can gain new markets by having coal produced efficiently and at low cost.

Mr Frank Hayne (Ashfield, Lab): When he last met the chairman of the NCB did he encourage him to join himself and his Cabinet colleagues on a character assassination course on the President of the NUM? The policy being pursued by the NUM was carried at the annual conference by members of the NUM.

Mr Walker: Most of the coalfields that are working had a ballot and

most of those that are not working did not.

Mr Alex Eadie, an Opposition spokesman on coal (Midlothian, Lab), said it was as absurd of the Secretary of State to describe Mr Scargill as the cause of the dispute as it was to state that the strike would have no economic consequences for the nation. Would he announce today that he was calling both parties together and at least preface over the first meeting?

Mr Walker: Said he was willing to have talks continuing from the Edinburgh talks. It was for the NUM to decide whether or not they were willing to have such talks.

I have announced in the House (he went on) that those talks are available. I hope Mr Eadie will use his considerable influence to persuade the NUM to go to those talks.

Mr Richard Hesketh (Glasgow and Southside, C) said there had been no Labour criticism of NUM policy putting at risk the future of many thousands of steel workers. He asked for an assurance, in the light of today's decision by the steel unions, that all possible steps would be taken to ensure that adequate

protection is given to those who are at work.

Mr Walker: I hope Mr Kinnock will be in touch and conjunction with the NUM to persuade them to continue the talks, taking place at Edinburgh. I hope he has from time to time, condemned violence and some of the intimidation that has taken place. I am only sorry that condemnation has not had any results.

Mr Tony Benn (Chesterfield, Lab): Taking account of the fact that pits are working normally because there is a national overtime ban in Nottinghamshire and elsewhere, MacGregor's letter to 180,000 people produced only a few hundred responses. Mr Walker's own attacks on the union have only consolidated support for the strike, while the Prime Minister has claimed in a letter to me that he has met Mr MacGregor. Why have the Edinburgh talks failed?

Mr Walker said the coal board would turn up for talks on the basis of the Edinburgh talks. Perhaps Mr Orme would see that the NUM did, too.

Mr Walker: I agree I was of the view it was the position of the Opposition that it was endeavouring to get the two sides to speak to each other again, and I hope they will succeed.

The Government favours, and Mr MacGregor favours, that and I hope the NUM will accept that challenge.

Mr Stanley Orme (Crawley, C): One of the lessons of this dispute so far is that no legislation, nor even democracy itself, can survive without a basic respect for the rule of law.

What message will he give to those miners, terrifying wives, families and children of those brave men still at work?

Mr Walker: A great deal of courage has been shown by many of the 60,000 at work and if we returned to a system of normal peaceful picketing there would be tens of thousands returning to work in the next few days.

Mr Ian Wrigglesworth (Stockton South, SDP): The overwhelming majority of people want to see the two sides together discussing the issues of this dispute and trying to reach a settlement. It is most regrettable if the chink of light we saw in the pronouncements this weekend comes to nothing.

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Leader in Guatemalan poll boosts Reagan's military aid proposals

From John Carlin, Guatemala City

A centre-right party formed just 10 months ago has emerged as the likely winner in elections for a Constituent Assembly - news that will improve President Reagan's chances of persuading a reluctant US Congress to approve military aid to Guatemala.

The results for the capital, Guatemala City, show the Union of the National Centre (UCN) clear of the other 16 competing parties with a 25 per cent share of the vote.

Guatemala's two traditional political parties, the Christian Democrats (DCG) and the extreme right National Liberation Movement (MLN), trail behind with 20 per cent and 13 per cent of the votes respectively.

The real winner in Guatemala City was "the null vote", which accounted for 26 per cent of the ballot; testimony, as one local observer said, to the widespread scepticism about politics in a country tightly in the military's grip for the past 30 years.

First results outside the capital, which accounts for

about 20 per cent of the national vote, indicated that the UCN and the DCG were clear of the rest of the field.

The UCN is headed by Señor Jorge Nicoll Carpio, a newspaper owner and successful businessman, who reportedly spent about \$6m (£4.3m) on his electoral campaign, more than anyone else in the field. Señor Carpio carried out a blitz advertising campaign, converting himself and his party into a household name and upstaging his more entrenched rivals in what was seen as a last-ditch, if violent, run-up to the election.

An US Republican congressman, Mr Marvin Edwards, who is in Guatemala to observe the elections, said at a news conference yesterday that he would be recommending in Washington the resumption of US military training programme for the Guatemalan Army.

Mr Edwards was one of a group of American official observers, a bipartisan political group, unanimous in their enthusiasm for the democratic step forward they felt Guatemala

males had taken in these elections.

The UCN is generally felt to be the party most favoured by the United States. The smooth-talking, slick Señor Carpio, a man with solid anti-Communist credentials, is ideologically little removed from the rest of a largely right-wing field but he has learnt how to package his political views in a manner that is palatable to Washington.

Several high-ranking Guatemalan officers are said to favour the UCN because they see it as the party most likely to persuade the US Congress to approve President Reagan's request this year for \$10m in urgently needed military aid.

President Carter cut off military aid to Guatemala in 1977.

The apparently bad performance of the traditionally powerful MLN, whose leader, Señor Mario Sandoval, has been unashamedly in the forefront of Guatemala's political violence recent years, is clearly good news for President Reagan's plan to step up involvement in Guatemala.

No headway made in talks with Nicaragua

Managua (Reuter) - The United States and Nicaragua made no progress on their differences when they held talks in Mexico last week, the Nicaraguan Government said yesterday.

A communiqué, the first public announcement by either side, said the talks focused on procedures for future discussions, but even on this there was no agreement.

The statement said Washington was "escalating its aggression against Nicaragua" and added that the main obstacle to an advance in negotiations was the fact that "the aggressive position of the United States has not undergone any change".

The defence Ministry also announced that a mine, which it said had been placed by CIA-funded insurgents, exploded in Nicaragua's Pacific port of Puerto Sandino on Sunday but caused no damage. At least seven foreign vessels have been damaged this year in Nicaraguan waters by mines placed in covert operations.

The communiqué denied press reports quoting Nicaragua's official at the talks, Señor Vito Hugo Tinoco, the Deputy Foreign Minister, as

saying progress had been made there. Mr Harry Shlaudemann, President Reagan's special Central American envoy, represented the United States at the two-day meeting.

The Nicaraguan communiqué said the impression that improvements had been made was deliberately spread in an attempt to enhance President Reagan's image as a peace-loving man in election year.

The talks were held after Mr George Shultz, the United States Secretary of State, paid a surprise visit to Nicaragua early in June. Despite making the first government contact with leaders of Nicaragua's left-wing Sandinista junta for two years, Mr Shultz said Washington would continue to support right-wing Nicaraguan rebels fighting to overthrow the Sandinistas.

Señor Daniel Ortega, the Nicaraguan leader, who returned at the weekend from a trip to the Soviet Union and East Europe, told reporters that Nicaragua would receive more economic and military aid from socialist countries.

He gave no details and there was no announcement of any Soviet aid to Nicaragua while Señor Ortega was in Moscow.

Canberra to hold atom test inquiry

From Tony Dabholka, Melbourne

The Government has decided to hold a high-level inquiry into British atomic tests in Australia in the 1950s and 1960s.

The Cabinet yesterday accepted a recommendation from Senator Peter Walsh, Minister for Resources and Energy. Because some details had not been settled, it was decided not to make public the terms of reference or details of the inquiry until later this week. However, Canberra sources said the panel would consist of a high court judge and two scientists.

Among other questions, they are likely to consider whether the British Government kept Australia fully informed. The inquiry will cover the tests at Maralinga in the South Australian outback and on the island of Monte Bello, off the coast of Western Australia.

It is believed that the inquiry will not be held in public because it could threaten compensation cases involving people allegedly affected by the tests.

Pressure grows on Mondale to pick woman running-mate

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

ELECTION

Under growing pressure to appoint a woman as his running mate, Mr Walter Mondale, the prospective Democratic nominee, yesterday held talks with the candidate who is considered the front-runner among both men and women as his choice for the Number 2 spot on his presidential ticket - Mrs Geraldine Ferraro.

Mrs Ferraro, who represents the Queens district of New York City, is not the first woman to be interviewed by Mr Mondale, nor will she be the last. He saw Mrs Dianne Feinstein, Mayor of San Francisco, last week, and will interview Governor Martha Layne Collins of Kentucky on Friday. But few would now dispute that, if he picks a woman for the vice-presidential spot, it will be "the housewife from Queens".

Mrs Ferraro, buoyed by her highly-praised stewardship of the Democratic platform committee, has been sounding and looking increasingly like a vice-presidential candidate in recent days.

She has also attracted the support of some powerful figures in the party, among them Mr Thomas O'Neill, the House Speaker, Governor

Marilyn Youngblood, an American Indian, who acted as an adviser to Senator Hart.

Mario Cuomo of New York, who will deliver the keynote address at the Democratic convention in San Francisco later this month, as well as from three of Mr Mondale's

most prominent women supporters in Congress, Representatives Barbara Mikulski (Maryland), Barbara Kennedy (Connecticut) and Mary Rose Oakar (Ohio).

Among Mrs Ferraro's many perceived advantages as a vice-presidential candidate are that she is Catholic, comes from the populous and traditionally Democratic north-east of the country, and represents blue-collar constituency.

The most overt pressure yet on Mr Mondale to choose a woman was exerted at the weekend during the annual convention of the National Organization of Women (Now), the largest and most influential feminist organization in the country.

The organization adopted a resolution which threatened a big floor fight at the Democratic convention if the party's nominees fails to pick a female running-mate.

The overwhelming approved resolution stated that Now would, if necessary, introduce on the convention floor the name of a woman for Vice-president who is "strong on women's issues, a woman for all the right reasons, not as a symbolic nomination". It added: "We are saying to our endorsed nominee, Walter Mondale, run with a woman, win with a woman."

Five out of nine ferry detainees released

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv

Five of the nine passengers taken off the Larache-Beruit ferry seized in the Mediterranean on Friday were freed yesterday after had convinced their Israeli interrogators they were not Palestinian terrorists.

They were put up in a hotel in northern Israel and are expected to cross the border in to Lebanon today. They are Lebanese and Cypriot citizens.

International Red Cross representatives saw them yesterday but, according to an Israeli Foreign Ministry statement, the Red Cross "for technical reasons" is not in a position to complete the transfer today.

The Red Cross officials were not allowed to see the other four. An official said they did not know the nationality of the remaining four.

The Israelis have clamped a tight news blackout on the identities and interrogation of the remaining four. A report in

Lebanese secret files thrown open to Syria

From Robert Fisk, Beirut

In the four months since President Amin Gemayel tore up Lebanon's unofficial peace treaty with Israel, Syria has in effect acquired access to almost all Lebanese police and secret intelligence files.

If the Israelis really have caught a big terrorist fish, it could be expected to give the fading Likud government a big boost in the election campaign, although a similar adventure 14 years ago, when Labour was in office, mustered and earned little international reprimands.

Acting on intelligence that Mr George Habash, the Palestinian guerrilla leader, had booked a passage on a Middle East Airlines aircraft between Damascus and Beirut, Israeli fighters forced the airliner to land in Israel. Mr Habash was given the Army Chief of Staff, who is a Druze, the right of access to military intelligence

records and information which were previously intended only for the army commander, a Christian Maronite.

The Druze bitterly condemned the former Army commander, General Ibrahim Tamous, for permitting Lebanese troops to fight beside the Christian Phalangist militia in the latest civil war.

The present Chief of Staff, Major-General Nadim al-Hakim, absented himself from his post last year and gave moral support to the Druze militia while living in Syrian-occupied Lebanon. It is General Hakim who can now inspect the records of the Deir Ezzor Bureau.

TEL AVIV: Israel allowed the south Lebanese ports of Tyre and Sidon to reopen yesterday, a week after closing them (AP reports).

Lucerne (AP) - Challenger Garry Kasparov of the Soviet Union is placed ahead of the world champion, in the World Chess Federation's latest top 10 list.

The other rankings, in order, are: Jan Timman (Netherlands), Lajos Portisch (Hungary), Viktor Korchnoi (Switzerland), Lev Polugayevsky (Soviet Union), Radek Vaganian (Soviet Union), Ljubomir Ljubojevic (Yugoslavia), Robert Hübner (West Germany), Vasily Smyslov (Soviet Union).

Metropolitan Police detectives were continuing their investigations into two big London robberies yesterday after the disclosure that five men wanted or questioned have been living in southern Spain.

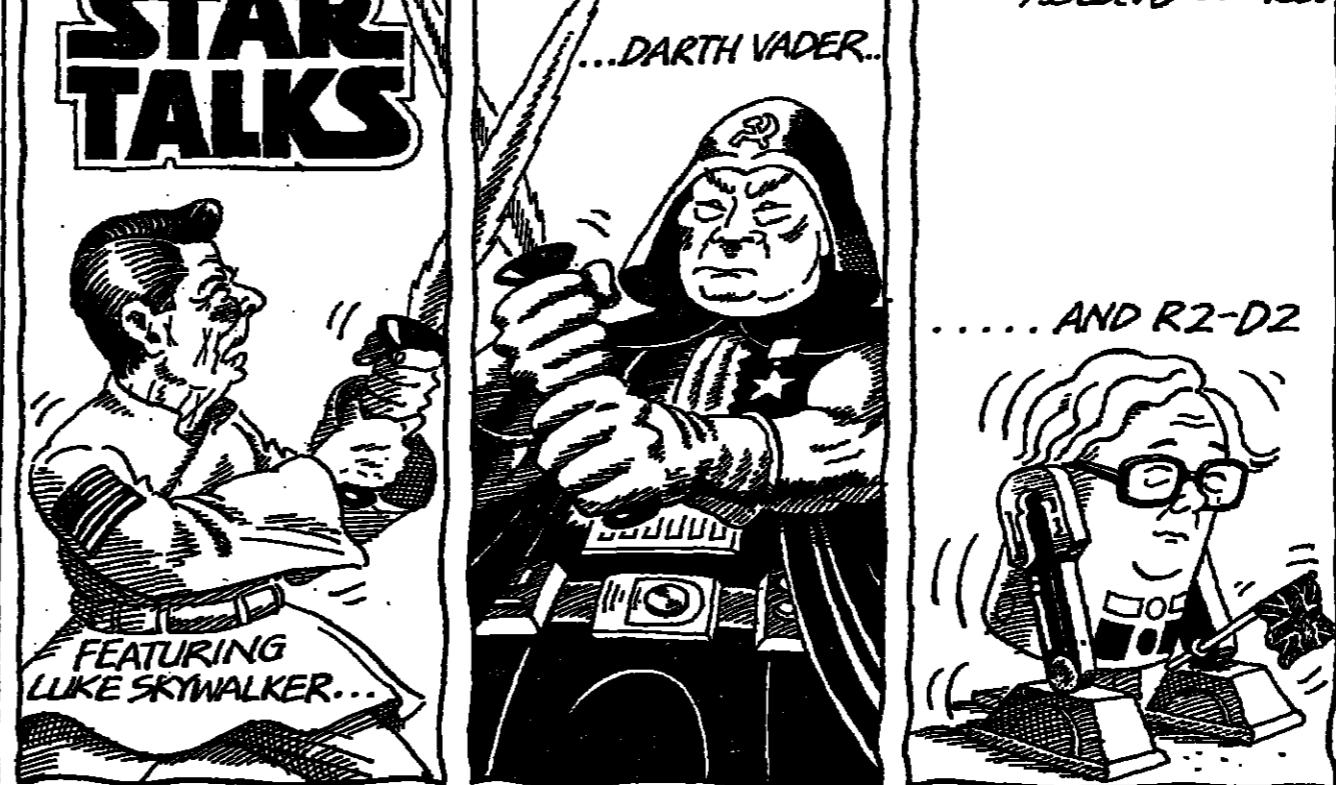
Three have been eliminated from inquiries, but plain clothes men are still anxious to interview two others, said to be residing on the Costa del Sol.

Spain abrogated its extradition treaty with Britain in 1978 after it had been in force for 100 years because it claimed

the arrangement was working unfairly. Between 1953 and 1978, the Spanish extradited 14 people, but Britain returned only one to Madrid during the same period and turned down eight applications from Spanish police on the grounds that there was not enough evidence to satisfy British magistrates.

Most European countries are signatories to a convention on extradition. However, Spain, France, Belgium and Portugal have never ratified it, while Britain and Malta have not signed it, arguing that their legal

Star Talks



Sir Geoffrey flies flag in a chill wind

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Sir Geoffrey Howe, remarkably good-humoured after a day grappling with Mr Andrei Gromyko, told British businessmen in Moscow yesterday that they were doing a fine job in difficult circumstances.

He spoke in the scruffy surroundings of the British Club, a room in the British Embassy.

"We know your problems with telephone communications and shopping facilities," Sir Geoffrey said. "We are doing what we can". "Perhaps they could begin with the club", mumbled one businessman.

It had been a hard day, most of it spent opposite the veteran Soviet Foreign Minister, who is 75 this month, and who, as one

source close to the talks put it, "kept smiling, but dangerous".

At the lunch which followed, Sir Geoffrey urged Russia to talk to America on space weapons, or on medium-range missiles, or on strategic missiles, or Afghanistan, and other reminders of past glories.

Mr Gromyko seemed affable as he greeted Sir Geoffrey, gripping him under the elbow and guiding him to the table. "You have come from Norway", he observed, and knowing the British propensity for talking about the weather, added: "The wind from Norway brings rain to Russia." He

smiled. "The wind from the east, however, is cold and dry."

Sir Geoffrey, who said there had been too many "long-range messages" across the Iron Curtain, told Mr Gromyko across the polished table why Britain wanted dialogue and trade. "Computers are still something of a novelty to me," he remarked, perhaps knowing that in Russia they are something of a novelty to most people.

"In British schools they are as much part of the furniture as the inkwell used to be". There was a sharp intake of breath - envy or disbelief? - similar to that caused by President Mitterrand's public mention of Dr Sakharov last month.

Liberia votes

Monrovia (AP) - Liberians vote on a new constitution today, paving the way for a return to a elected civilian government after almost six years of military rule. Delays in the timetable have strained relations between President Samuel Doe's military administration and the United States.

The next step will be presidential and congressional elections late next year.

Airline cover-up

Rome (Reuter) - Italian magistrates are to rule if nine Rome-based ground hostesses of Iran Air, must wear the traditional chador, or veil, while at work. Lawyers for the nine, seven of them Italians, have asked for a decision on the validity of the company's new instruction, due to take effect on July 15.

Lean time

Pisa (AP) - Although shaken by an earthquake last Easter Sunday, the leaning tower of Pisa increased its famous tilt by only 0.4mm (0.016in) in the past year, experts announced in their annual report to the city. Heavy spring rains probably helped steady it by increasing the pressure in an underground layer of water below the tower.

Off the hook

Corfu (AP) - Albania released a Greek amateur fisherman who strayed into Albanian territorial waters in the narrow strait which divides this western Greek island from its neighbour. They had questioned him for a week.

City shaken

Mexico City (Reuter) - A moderate earthquake, measuring 5.5 on the Richter scale, shook Mexico City during Sunday night, causing people to run into the streets. There were no reports of casualties or damage.

Officials armed

Harcare (Reuter) - The Zimbabwe Government plans to arm officials of the ruling Zanu-PF Party who live in rebel-affected areas, according to Mr Maurice Nyagumbo, Minister of State for Political and Provincial Affairs.

Officer shot

Bilbao (Reuter) - A retired Spanish Army officer, Lieutenant-Colonel Alberto Arnaiz Felix, aged 65, was shot dead by two suspected guerrillas outside his home in this Basque port city.

Energy chief

Paris (AP) - Frau Helga Steeg of West Germany, who is 57, officially assumed leadership of the International Energy Agency, which coordinates energy policies for Western nations.

Men give way

Vaduz (AFP) - Male voters in the tiny principality of Liechtenstein, decided by a narrow margin to grant women the right to vote. The proposal had been defeated in referendums in 1971 and 1973.

Spanish haven may thwart UK police

By Henry Stanhope, Diplomatic Correspondent

systems would make it difficult to comply. Britain prefers to have separate, individual agreements on a bilateral basis.

That is why Britain has been exploring the possibility of a new agreement with Spain. There is nothing to prevent any country applying for extradition in a particular case, although no treaty is in force. But Britain has not done so since 1978 and there has been no indication that this is being contemplated.

Both robberies took place last year and involved a total loss of £32m.

Protesters defy curfew in Kashmir after Chief Minister's removal

From Michael Hamlyn, Delhi
An acute political and constitutional crisis was set off in the key border state of Jammu and Kashmir yesterday when the newly appointed Governor of the state dismissed Dr Farooq Abdullah, the Chief Minister, and appointed his brother-in-law, Mr G. M. Shah, in his place.

Shopkeepers pulled down their shutters when they heard the news and crowds of angry supporters of the Chief Minister took to the streets. The authorities replied with a curfew in the capital, Srinagar, and deployed units of the paramilitary police forces at the main intersections in the city.

Crowds defied the curfew in the centre of the town and chanted pro-Pakistan slogans. They also chanted slogans in favour of "Khalistan", the independent state that Sikh separatists in neighbouring Punjab are seeking.

Dr Abdullah, a son of the old Lion of Kashmir, Shaikh Abdullah, and anointed by the old man as his successor before he died two years ago, has long complained of attempts to

overthrow him by the central government of Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, and of her party, the Congress (I), which he defeated in elections a year ago.

The attempts to overthrow him have centred round Mr Shah, a long-standing supporter of the shahid, who was bitterly disappointed when he was not allowed to succeed him. Mr Shah certainly regarded himself as better qualified for the job, having been involved in politics while the doctor was practising medicine in Britain for 12 years.

Twelve members of the National Conference, the party founded by the shahid and led by Dr Abdullah, were persuaded yesterday to defect to the Shah camp. They were joined there by an independent, and the 13 extra votes were enough to put the Chief Minister into a minority in the 76-member assembly.

The Governor, Mr Jagmohan, who was put into the job by Mrs Gandhi two months ago, promptly dismissed Mr Shah as encouraging pro-Pakistan sentiment in the Muslim majority state.

'Plot to oust Socialists' reported in Greece

From Mario Modiano
Athens

A Greek minister's resignation has touched off a spate of press allegations about plots to overthrow the Government, implicating President Karanassis who let it be known he did not wish newspapers to be prosecuted for reports which he dismissed as slander.

Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister, deplored the allegations and ordered one of the offending editors to be expelled from the party.

The fracas gave a measure of the Government's discomfort and disappointment over the results of the European elections in which the ruling Pasok socialists maintained first place but lost nearly a seventh of their following.

Allegations of a right wing conspiracy to topple the administration were made by the government spokesman soon after the sudden resignation of Mr Asimakis Fotilas, Under Secretary for the Greek Diaspora, to protest against the "dangerous" policies pursued by the Papandreou Government.

The Prime Minister, in a letter accepting Mr Fotilas' resignation, accused him of serving sinister purposes. Mr Fotilas was dismissed by Mr Papandreou as Deputy Foreign Minister early in 1982 for endorsing a European Community statement criticizing the regime in Poland.

Pro-Pasok newspapers claimed the Fotilas resignation was the spearhead of a right-wing plot which did not succeed because the socialists won the European election battle.

The ruling party's main fear, of course, was that if Pasok lost first place, President Karanassis might have dismissed the Government.

But the Athens tabloid *Romiosyni*, whose editor, Mr Costa Yeroukalos, has family ties with the Prime Minister, claimed that another plot engineered by the President was set in motion involving the use of "salami tactics" to induce the defection of Pasok deputies and thus strip the Government of its parliamentary majority.

The report named Mr Apostolos Lazaris, Minister to the Prime Minister, who ranks second after Mr Papandreou in the Cabinet hierarchy, and Mr Yiannis Alveras, president of Parliament, as being involved in the conspiracy with half a dozen moderate Pasok ministers and deputies.

Mr Papandreou expressed his outrage at the report and the attempt to "slander" the President and trusted aides. Pasok's decision-making Executive Office dismissed it as a "wretched lie", and the party's Disciplinary Council ousted Mr Yeroukalos, accusing him of using lies to boost his prestige and his newspaper's flagging circulation.

HIGHWAY TO RE-OPEN: Greece and Albania have agreed to reopen the main highway linking the countries across the mountainous frontier at Kalavria, which has been officially closed for the past 40 years.

It was the only issue resolved when Mr Muhammad Kaplan, the Albanian Foreign Under-Secretary, and his Greek host, Mr Karolos Papoulias, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, met in Athens.

MINISTER QUIT: After a string of resignations of senior Greek television executives, alleging state interference in news programmes, the Government yesterday accepted the resignation of Mr Sakis Peponis, minister in charge of television.

Rumours that Mr Peponis and the Director-General of television had come to blows during an argument were denied. But a new Director-General was immediately appointed. He is Mr Vasos Mathiopoulos.

Mrs Gandhi warned not to meddle in Sri Lanka

From Our Own Correspondent, Delhi

Two days of rather prickly talks between President Jayewardene of Sri Lanka and Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, ended yesterday with the President making off the proposals he is making on the future devolution of power within Sri Lanka as none of her business.

In the formal statement, he made at the end of the talks, he said: "I referred to the Prime Minister my view that the political resolution of his matter is an internal matter of Sri Lanka; to be settled between the various Sri Lankan parties concerned". He added: "As such I entirely agreed".

The Indian Government was known to feel that the proposals he was to make to the all-party talks aimed at solving the island's ethnic troubles did not go far enough towards satisfying the aspirations of the Tamils. Mrs Gandhi feels protective towards the Tamils, if only because of the importance that

Catalonia must take Pujol case

From Richard Wigg
Madrid

Spain's Supreme Court ordered a Barcelona court yesterday to take up the Banca Catalana embezzlement case involving, according to the prosecution, Señor Jordi Pujol, Catalonia's Chief Minister. The lower court's claim that it was incompetent was overruled.

Nationalist sentiment in Catalonia exploded when the Prosecutor-General filed embezzlement charges against 25 former directors, including Señor Pujol, of what was Spain's eleventh-ranking bank.

The Socialist Government in Madrid was suspected of being behind the move.

The Barcelona court, Audiencia Nacional, had maintained that Catalonia's 1979 Statute of Autonomy determined that a Chief Minister could only be tried before a Catalan superior court. As this tribunal had not been set up, the case could not proceed.

But the Spanish Supreme Court ruled yesterday that the Barcelona court must hear the case to avoid a legal vacuum in Catalonia.

Multiplying mice make hay in a bumper crop

From Tony Duboulay, Melbourne

Anyone inventing a better mouse-trap in Australia now would certainly have a large part of the country beating a path to his door.

As it is, Australia's only mouse-trap factory is working 14 hours a day to meet the demand as north-eastern Victoria, central and western New South Wales and parts of South Australia experience one of the worst mouse plagues in years after a bumper wheat harvest.

A spokesman for Stanfield Supreme Traps said that demand for mouse-traps was astronomical. "We've checked our records back as far as 1969 and we have never seen so much pushed to keep up with the demand", he said.

"We produce 1,000 an hour, 14 hours a day. We have even cleared out stock we've had here for years and we still can't keep up."

While the plague is good news for mouse-trap salesmen and cat fanciers, it is disastrous news for farmers in Australia's wheat belt.

Rural communities are hoping the present plague will not assume the proportions of previous infestations, particularly that of 1917 when one community in the Mallee caught about 12 million weighing 344 tons between April and July.

Mice climb down the sock-covered part of the bottle toward the food but lose their grip as the smooth glass of the bottle's neck and fall into the water and drown.

Another traditional method is to feed mice a mixture of milk powder with cement or plaster of Paris. The cement or plaster sets in the mouse's stomach, killing it. Because the plaster dehydrates the mouse the corpse should not smell.

Rural communities are hoping the present plague will not assume the proportions of previous infestations, particularly that of 1917 when one community in the Mallee caught about 12 million weighing 344 tons between April and July.

Victorian Department of Agriculture officers say the plague in the Mallee region is only in its early stages and that enormous numbers of the rodents bred in autumn and summer after last year's record grain harvest.

Fourteen Department of Agriculture officers say the plague in the Mallee region is only in its early stages and that enormous numbers of the rodents bred in autumn and summer after last year's record grain harvest.



Mark of honour: Mrs Marcos showing a scar on her wrist, made during an attempt on her life, while testifying before the Aquino murder commission.

Tearful Mrs Marcos denies all

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Mrs Imelda Marcos, wife of the Philippine President, yesterday denied she had prior knowledge that her husband's chief rival, Benigno Aquino, would be assassinated and claimed she twice tried to save his life.

Her appearance before a commission investigating the Aquino murder last August coincided with her birthday and her two-hour testimony ended with the five commissioners leading local journalists in the singing of "Happy Birthday" to her.

Denying this, Mrs Marcos said she had told Mr Laurel: "If he (Aquino) dies we will all be in trouble, including you". It would be, she recalled, very embarrassing to everyone if Aquino was killed, for it would show to the world that the Filipinos people were "a bunch of barbarians".

She tearfully recalled how she interceded to have Aquino released after eight years

military detention in 1980, when she discovered that he needed urgent heart surgery. Subsequently Aquino had a triple heart bypass operation in the United States for the following three years.

On learning of a plot to kill the opposition leader on his return, Mrs Marcos said she pleaded with him at a New York hotel in May, 1983, to delay his planned return home until the plots on his life could be countered.

"I never considered him a foe," Mrs Marcos said, "what ever happened, I was ready... like a girl scout".

While Mrs Marcos testified more than 200 women held a demonstration against her, accusing the President's wife of "plundering the treasury" and economic mismanagement.

One project, Schmid, to

Zaire's 304,000 arrivals

From daily handouts to self-sufficiency

As preparations are made in Geneva for next week's Second International Conference on Assistance to Refugees in Africa (Icaro II), *Refugee Times* looks in the second of a three-part series at the efforts to deal with inter-related problems in Zaire and Uganda.

Of the 127 projects on the agenda, Zaire has put forward 11 and Uganda 12. These are development projects, rather than those strictly concerned with the welfare and protection of refugees. If the office of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR), appearing to step outside its role as originally defined, it is because refugee needs have changed. Development, resettlement, self-sufficiency and repatriation are now essential.

Zaire is one of the largest countries in Africa and one of the poorest. It has welcomed refugees from several of the nine nations on its frontiers, most notably Uganda and Angola, and has to cope with about 304,000, of whom 215,000 are from Angola and 63,000 from Uganda. There are about 26,000 from other countries, including Rwanda, Zambia and Burundi. Because many drift across borders and migrate between settlements and cities or return home, no figures can be exact.

The arrival of refugees carrying meagre belongings can place an intolerable burden on the most hospitable and well-meaning of countries, especially when the infrastructure is already stretched to capacity, as is Zaire. Refugees eat the local food, burn the trees for firewood and compete for jobs already thinly spread.

In the Aru zone of Haute Zaire, thousands of Ugandans from the West Nile province in the north-west region have fled from attacks by guerrillas and elements in the Army. They live in three settlements at Birungi, Tole and Pope, and it is hoped they will be self-supporting by the end of this year. The indigenous population in the area totals 150,000.

One project, Schmid, to

AFRICAN REFUGEES Part 2

ment of sheep and poultry rearing, subsistence crops and training in the use of draught animals will benefit 35,000 families, a third of them refugees and will cost \$60m-\$63m. This should result in assimilation into the local population, increased revenue and improved crops of maize, peanuts and cassava. Joint ownership of draught animals would mean higher productivity and much-needed supplies of manure and meat.

This project would be reinforced by a \$3.5m three-year programme to improve about 220 miles of road from the project area to the towns for the sale of farm produce. About 1,600 miles of roads in the region are badly neglected and need to be rebuilt.

The programme includes the provision of consultants, administrative support, reconstruction of buildings for staff housing, training and research facilities, equipment and funds for help and training of farmers' associations.

The Government will take over the project after three years, and will be asked to meet recurrent costs, a cause of continuing anxiety for UNHCR in many countries. The economic balance in Zaire is still precarious and even a firm guarantee might not be met.

In the past nine months, about 10,000 Ugandans have returned to West Nile province from Zaire, either on their own, or under a UNHCR programme which follows up its concern for them by providing much-needed projects on roads, water-supply, agriculture and the reconstruction of hospitals and primary schools. The likelihood of implementing these basic needs depends largely on how much money will be available from the international community.

Tomorrow: Durable solutions

Gang clears out bank's gem boxes

From Ian Murray, Brussels

PRISONERS OF CONSCIENCE

Vietnam: Thich Huyen Quang

By Caroline Moorehead

Thich Huyen Quang, a Buddhist monk belonging to the Unified Buddhist Church, is being detained in a remote village in Central Vietnam, one of several thousand people arrested and held without charge since the end of the war.

He is forbidden to leave, as his presence in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) has been judged "too dangerous for the security and well-being of the people".

The An Quang pagoda, to

which he belonged, opposed the Vietnamese Government's attempts to unite all Buddhist sects under the leadership of the Viet Nam Patriarchal Front, and was very active in protesting against religious persecution and other human rights violations after the Communists takeover in 1975.

For this, Mr Quang and a number of other monks were arrested and briefly detained in October, 1981, and the An Quang pagoda was closed. They were deemed to have obstructed the work of the Department for the Campaign for the Unification of Vietnamese Buddhists.

They were again arrested in February, 1982, and since then have been held in internal exile.

Last month, 12 more Buddhist monks and nuns, former members of An Quang, were arrested in a police raid and are now being held incommunicado.

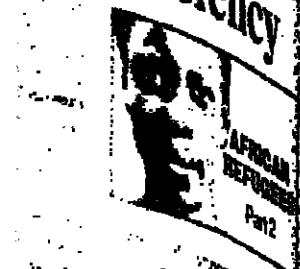
Tomorrow: The trial

of Thich Huyen Quang

and others

in the trial

of the trial



SPECTRUM

Dylan on rock, religion and Reagan

On a typically soggy March day in Manhattan, Bob Dylan, wearing black jeans, biker boots and a white sport coat over a white T-shirt, sat slouched on a stool at the far end of a small downtown studio. The crowd of cameramen, lighting technicians, make-up people and producers had withdrawn, leaving Dylan to strum and hum on his own. As long nails raked the strings of his Martin guitar, he began huffing softly into the harmonica racked around his neck, and soon a familiar melody filled the air. Could it be? I moved closer to cock an ear as Dylan cranked up the chorus. Yes, no doubt about it - Bob Dylan was running down the first-ever folksy arrangement of Karma Chameleon.

Soon, however, he was surrounded by technical people again. The audio crew punched up the tape of Jokerman, a song off Dylan's latest album, *Infidels*, and as the video cameras rolled, the star obediently lip-synced along. Dylan had been doing take after take of the number all morning and most of the afternoon without complaint. Jokerman would be the second video for *Infidels*, and he knew it had to be good. The first, for the lovely ballad Sweetheart Like You, had been a flat and lifeless embarrassment.

The man has been many things over the years: the voice of youth in the Sixties, the voice of aging youth in the Seventies, and, now, in the Eighties - what?

Do your old songs still mean the same to you as when you wrote them?

Sittin' here, it's hard to imagine it, but yes. Once you look into that stuff, it's like it was just written yesterday. When I'm singin' the stuff, sometimes I say: "Wow! Where'd these lyrics come from?" It's amazing.

So you still look back on some of it as protest material?

I think all my stuff is protest material in some kind of way. I always felt my position and my place came after that first wave, or maybe second wave, of rock and roll. And I felt I would never have done the things I did if I just had to listen to popular radio.

At one point, didn't you dissociate yourself from the protest form?

Well, you see, I never called it protest. Protest is anything that goes against the ordinary and the established. And who's the founder of protest? Martin Luther.

In the Sixties, there was feeling that this society really was changing. Looking back, do you feel it changed that much?

I think it did. A lot of times people forget. These modern days that we know now, where you can get on an airplane and fly anywhere you want nonstop, direct, and be there - that's recent. That's since what, 1940?

Not even that - after the war, it was.

And telephones? When I was growing up, I remember we

Certainly, he remains a completely unpredictable character, as I discovered. Smoking steadily ("Nothing can affect my voice; it's so bad") and downing cup after cup of coffee with cream, he proved both guarded and gracious, sweet and sometimes acerbic.

There was much to talk about. The man who has transformed the folk world with his raw, exciting acoustic debut LP in 1962, and who later alienated many when he appeared backed by an electric rock band, was still in 1984, as capable as ever of stirring controversy.

Thirteen years ago, to the surprise of virtually everyone, he turned up in Jerusalem at the Wailing Wall, wearing a yarmulke and reportedly searching for his "Jewish identity". Subsequently, he studied at the Vineyard Christian Fellowship, a Bible school in California, and shocked many fans by releasing three albums of fundamentalist, gospel-swathed rock. Next, he became associated with an ultra-Orthodox Jewish sect and last year returned to Jerusalem to celebrate his son Jesse's barmitzvah.

Then came *Infidels*. Although it continued the Biblical bent of Dylan's three previous albums (with an added overlay of cranky political conservatism), *Infidels* was one of his best-produced ever - thanks to Dire Straits guitarist Mark Knopfler at the recording console. With precious little promotional push from Dylan himself, the LP has already sold nearly three-quarters of a million copies.

So here he is once more - but who is he? A divorced father of five (one is his ex-wife Sara's daughter, whom he adopted), Dylan divides his time is he asking?

MUSIC NOW AND THEN

'All my stuff is protest material of some kind'

had a phone in the house, but you had to dial it; and I also remembered there was a party line of maybe six other people. And no matter when you got on the phone, there might be somebody else on it. And I never grew up with television. When television first came in, it came on at four in the afternoon, and it was off the air by seven at night. So you had more time to think. It can never go back to the way it was, but was it all changing in the Fifties and Sixties.

My kids, they know television, they know about that stuff. Even airplanes, I never rode on an airplane until 1964. Up till that time, if you wanted to go across the country, you took a train or a Greyhound bus, or you hitchhiked. I don't know, I think of myself as that old, or having seen that much.

Do you notice that you've noticed a lot of singers over the years?

It's phrasing. I think I've phrased everything in a way that it's never been phrased before. I hear stuff on the radio, and I know that if you go back far enough, you'll find somebody listened to Bob Dylan some-

where because of the phrasing. Even the contents of the tunes. Up until I started doing that stuff, nobody was talkin' about that sort of thing. You're always going to have your pop-radio stuff, but the only people who are going to succeed, really, are the people who are sayin' somethin' that is given to them to say. You can only carry "Tutti Frutti" so far.

Were you aware of punk rock when it happened - the Sex Pistols, the Clash?

I didn't listen to it all the time, but it seemed like a logical step,

and it still does. I think it's been hurt in a lot of ways by the fashion industry.

You've seen the Clash, I understand?

I met them way back in 1977, 1978. In England, I think they're great. In fact, I think they're greater now than they were.

Have you met Michael Jackson yet?

No, I don't think so. I met Martha and the Vandellas.

Do your kids tell you about new groups? "Check out boy George"?

Well, they used to, a few years ago. I like everything.

Are your kids musical?

Yes, they all play.

Would you encourage them to go into the music business?

I would never push 'em or encourage 'em to business. I never went into it as a business. I went into it as a matter of survival. So I wouldn't tell anybody to go into it as a business. It's a pretty cutthroat business, from what I've seen.

What do you tell your kids about things like sex and drugs? Well, they don't really ask me too much about that stuff. I think they probably learn enough just by hangin' around me, you know?

You had a drug period at one time, didn't you?

I never got hooked on any drug - not like you'd say: "Eric Clapton: his drug period."

Ever take LSD?

I don't say anything to encourage anybody, but who knows? Who knows what people stick in your drinks, or what kind of cigarettes you're smokin'?

When people like Jimi Hendrix and Janis Joplin started dropping away, did you look upon that as waste?

What is your spiritual stance, then?

Well, I don't think *this is it*, you know - this life ain't nothin'.

There's no way you're gonna convince me this is all there is to it. I never, ever believed that.

I believe in the Book of Revelation. The leaders of this



RELIGION

'If I thought the world needed another religion I'd start one'

People have put various labels on you over the past several years: born-again Christian, Orthodox Jew. Are any of these labels accurate?

Not really. People call you this or they call you that. But I can't respond to that, because that it seems like I'm defensive, what does it matter, really?

Do you actually believe the end is at hand?

I don't think it's at hand. I think we'll have at least 200 years.

And the new kingdom that comes in, people can't even imagine what it's gonna be like. There's a lot of people walkin' around who think the new kingdom's coming next year and that they're right in there among the top guard. And they're wrong. I think when it comes in, there are people who'll be prepared for it, but if the new kingdom happened tomorrow and you were sitting there and I was sitting here, you wouldn't even remember me.

Can you converse and find agreement with Orthodox Jews?

I don't think so. How long is Reagan going to be president? I've seen like four or five of 'em myself, you know? And I've seen two of 'em die in office.

world are eventually going to play God, if they're not already playing God, and eventually a man will come that everybody will think is God. He'll do things, and they'll say: "Well, only God can do those things. It must be him".

You're a literal believer of the Bible?

I am.

Are the Old and New Testaments equally valid?

To me.

Do you belong to any church or synagogue?

Not really. The Church of the Poison Mind [laughs].

Do you actually believe the end is at hand?

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Can you converse and find agreement with Christians?

I don't think so. How long is Reagan going to be president? I've seen like four or five of 'em myself, you know? And I've seen two of 'em die in office.

How can you deal with Reagan and get so serious about that, when the man isn't even gonna be there when you get your thing together?

So you don't think there's any difference between, say, a Kennedy and a Nixon? It doesn't matter at all?

I don't know. It's very popular nowadays to think of yourself as a "liberal humanist". It means less than nothing. Who was a better president? Well, you got me. I don't know what people's errors are; nobody's perfect, for sure. But I thought Kennedy - both Kennedys - I just liked them. And I liked Martin ... Martin Luther King, I thought those were people who were blessed and touched, you know? The fact that they all went out with bullets doesn't change nothin'. Because the good they do gets planted. And those seeds live on longer than that.

Do you still hope for peace?

There is not going to be any peace.

You don't think it's worth working for?

No, it's just gonna be a false peace. You can release your rifle, and that moment you're re-loading it, that's peace. If may last for a few years.

Kurt Eder

© Rolling Stone

Bob Dylan plays at St James's Park, Newcastle tonight, and Wembley Stadium on Saturday.

Snipe and crofters on the Euro fence

North Uist, Outer Hebrides. Over in Skye, 30 miles across the Minch, the trees are tall, green and blossoming. Here, on this beautiful but windswept island, there is only one line of leafless shrubs, in a Lochmaddy garden, and one experimental patch of small conifers on a heathery hillockside.

But the moors and meadows are not so featureless as they were a few years ago. They are now criss-crossed by thousands of miles of new wire fences, barbed along the top. Corncrakes (a vanishing species, of which this is a last outpost)

constantly get caught in them; and

birdwatchers (who come to see the corncrakes) are regularly caught in them too.

These fences symbolize a recent dispute going on in the Outer Hebrides. They are EEC fences, paid for mainly out of grants made to the crofters, under the Integrated Development Programme, or IDP, which is offering £20m to the crofters for their farms and fisheries. People have been asking whether these stout grey fences are really use.

They stop a few cattle or sheep from straying, but when you see them on

the empty moorland, or on the machair - the rich sandy meadows of the coasts - you wonder what they are keeping in or out.

The issue of EEC funding for drainage raises the same doubts. Conflict has flared between agriculturalists and nature-lovers, fanned by recent articles in the *West Highland Free Press*, the island's paper.

Subsidized drainage is offered by the IDP as an "improvement" for the wetter machair lands. But these meadows are an exceptional bit of the British Isles. They hold unique communities of flowers, mosses and sedges, and an abundance of breeding waders. At this time of the year, the sky above them is filled with drumming snipe, complaining lapwing, singing dunlin; on the

marsch pools, rarities such as the red-necked phalarope come to summer. Would drainage, apart from the clearing of the ancient ditches and condens, make any real difference to this land's potential?

Some crofters, or their political spokesmen, have been very angry that the Nature Conservancy always has to be consulted before schemes can go ahead. In their anger, they

have been swinging out at all sorts of targets, such as the grey lag geese, golden eagles in the mountains, the elusive red-throated divers on the jags of lochs, and the innumerable seabirds along the shore.

One individual seabird gives me special hope. It is a Steller's eider, one of the rarest birds on the British list, which took up residence near a rock off the South Uist coast 12 years ago. It is still there. I saw it on its rock a day or two ago, preening, lifting up its ruddy breast for me to observe, like a mannequin.

It should be breeding up in the Arctic Circle. One austere birdwatcher said to me: "That bird just stood and watched its head examined. I'd sooner see a sparrow." But I like to think it just knows that here it has found a safe niche.

The islands are still a birdwatcher's paradise - not only with the

Derwent May

It's no way to start the day

Up and down the country more and more people have been starting the day with a rather unpleasant experience. Their newsagents have been unable to supply a copy of *The Times* on request. This is because demands have begun to outstrip the supply. In this situation, the only safe way of obtaining your copy is to order one. Then you can start the day in style.

Dear Newsagent, please deliver/save me a copy of *The Times*

NAME.....

ADDRESS.....

(20p)

puts it in focus

moreover... Miles Kington

small for it. Or Brazil nuts - hitting a nut with a hammer and then looking for the bits that can't be flattened.

Other high-quality convenience foods include small game birds, which contain more bones than meat (as a rough guide, anything beginning with p or q, such as quail, partridge, pigeon or plover). All white fish which present a bone problem and which require hours of dissecting. All shellfish such as prawns or shrimps, which, by the time you've got off the head, tail, outer casing and funny little bits inside, leave hardly anything to eat. Bigger shellfish like crabs and lobsters, which you have much more fun - and you eat far fewer for the same satisfaction!

Vegetables like globe artichoke. Fruits like loquat or pomegranate - all that skin and seeds, and not much else. All these inconvenience foods have several things in common: they're a lot of fun, they're luxury exciting items and they provide precious little to eat.

That's why the Moreover Damm-Difficult-Diet is the first one to make you thin while you're enjoying it. Here's a sample checklist to show you in detail how it works.

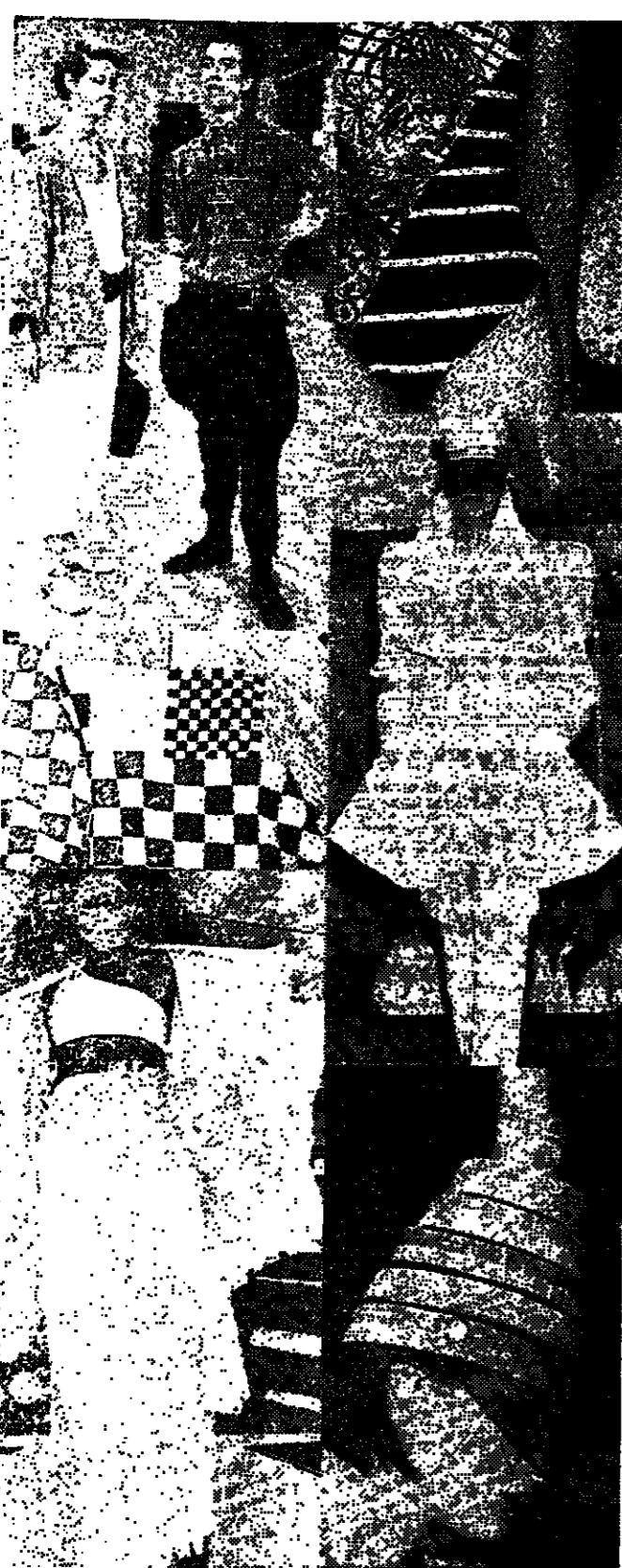
Yoghurt and strawberries, followed by sardines on toast.

Make sure you have one of those small yoghurt pots which takes ages to get the top off. Wipe the kitchen table after you've fought your way in. Into the remaining yoghurt put four strawberries, from which you have carefully removed the pip. Now, take one of those anonymous small sardine tins whose lid rolls back one centimetre and then refuses to budge. Throw away tin in fury. Eat anything that remains. NB: Wholemeal toast is very important, because the slice tends to remain jammed inside the toaster.

The principle of unwrapping difficulty is very important, by the way. The Moreover Damm-Difficult-Diet allows you to eat as much salt and pepper as you like, as long as you stick to those little airline packs of salt and pepper which have the names in four different languages and not much else, or the tiny cylindrical rolls which you tear the top off, taking most of the salt and pepper with it. And don't forget that this diet allows you to eat as many pork pies as you like, as long as you stick to pork pies wrapped in cellophane where it's impossible to find the outside edge to pull and open.

So send off now for your Moreover Damm-Diff

FASHION by Suzy Menkes



SHAPES Top: St Martin's jodhpur style. Stripe and flower swimsuit print, Liverpool. Sally-Ann Johnson op-art graphics. Sophie Sarin's sculptured drill, RCA. Sharp shapes in Lycra, St Martin's. London College hat.

Fashion's current buzz word is "outrageous". It describes the shock of the new, the blurring of the sexes, the fun of the unexpected and the raw vitality and energy of street style. Boy George is outrageous, and so are the most of the other visual statements made in the new music movement, with which young fashion is so closely linked.

The best of the college shows last week had elements of the outrageous. Wild prints and mixes of pattern, sculpted body shapes, an emphasis on frank man-made fabrics, a generic renaissance of the ethnic and an explosion of interesting menswear were the strong statements. And just as the London streets teem with fashion ideas that are never on sale, the students often give out more intriguing messages in their own clothes, than in their degree collections.

The men were the peacocks, wearing softly-wrapped and unstructured clothes, sparkling with pastel jewelry, decorated with print. Their girl friends were in simpler oversize cotton separates or sweats, or in sharp man-tailoring offset with paisley and chintz. This was a theme picked up by two memorable collections from Caroline Stubbs at Kingston (who put her men in rose-printed shirt dresses) and Eric Bremner at the Royal College of Art, who mixed sweet florals with sober pinstripes.

The colleges divide into categories, either by design (some are the more technical Datech courses) or by an accident of emphasis. Glasgow came to London specifically to show their printed textiles; Liverpool also have an inclination towards textiles with some strongly graphic mixes of print from Sally-Ann Johnson and Karleen Renwick and a tactile carpet bag fabric from Carol Lewis. Kingston have a penchant for showing projects which produce some excellent sportswear.

The one overwhelming and pervasive influence is the French designer Jean-Paul Gaultier, who is more attuned to English Street style than to Paris, but who is able to plug into that international underground current and use it for a commercial collection. I saw a dozen Gaultier-inspired collections, one straight copy of Armani at St Martin's and another of Gianfranco Ferre at the RCA.

The Royal College of Art is in a class of its own - a post-graduate course which is supposed to refine our finest fashion talent. At a gala showing in front of Princess Margaret (whose daughter, Lady Sarah Armstrong-Jones was busily making notes at the morning show) the 15 final year designers showed their collections, found them, with some notable exceptions, too similar, too sombre, and very un-English in style. Students often complain (with some justification) that they are not wooed or found work in their own country, and there were very few major British manufacturers at the shows. But the RCA showed a lot of clothes that were tuned into Italian high fashion - an oversize silhouette from an exaggerated shoulder line, mostly in linen, and with complications of cut and detail.

By contrast the sense of colour was terrific, with Margaret Shiel's towelling separates in tomato red with purple and lime green and Marcus Baron's luscious menswear collection of window pane wools and silky knits.

At the RCA, Sophie Sarin's body sculptures in quilted cotton drill were beautifully shaped and her futuristic collection expressed the concept of the fashion college as a laboratory of ideas. Clare Woodhouse can also cut to the body, using sweatshirt and towelling fabrics in faded flower colours for wearable sportswear. Otherwise, the menswear stood out with Douglas Scott's sharply coloured madras checks.

St Martin's gave a strong show, very varied (and also patchy). Menswear, or an

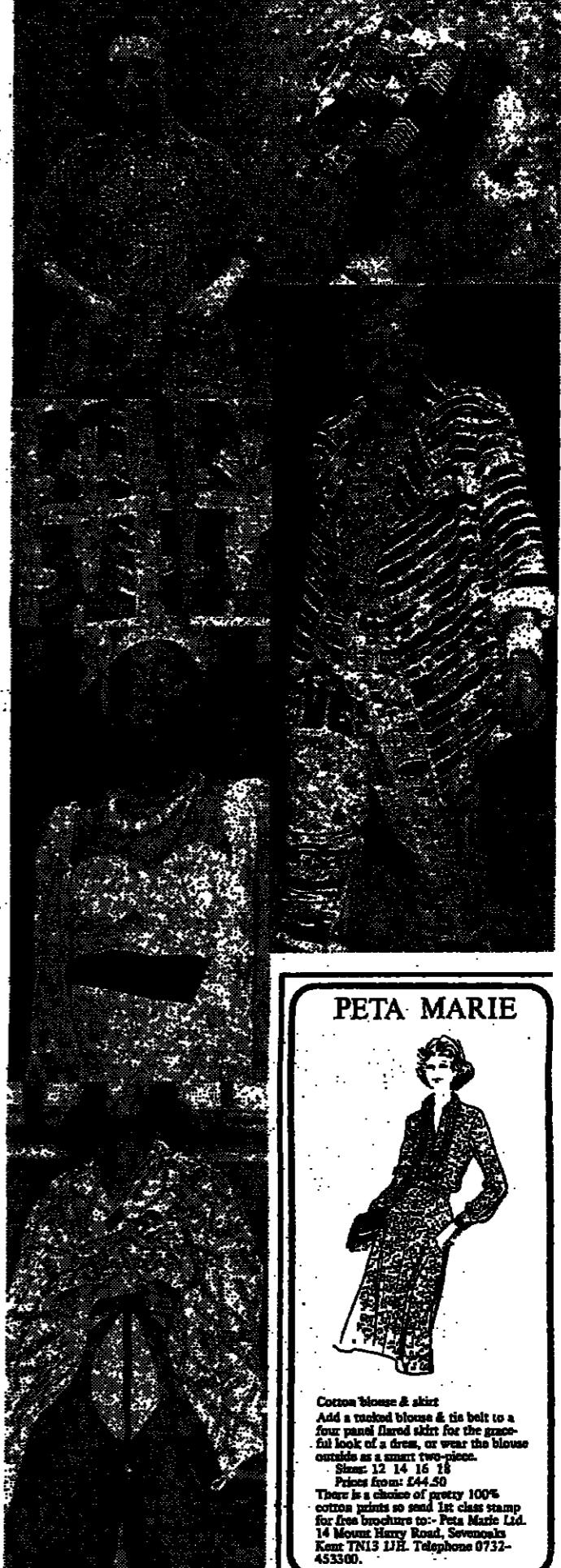


OUTRAGEOUS



PRINT and ETHNIC Mixed print men's-dress Caroline Stubbs, Kingston. Chintz and stripe Eric Bremner, RCA. Top: Wallace Murdoch, Glasgow. Beverly Baron, RCA. Printed coat Ann Thompson, Kingston. Rosaline McKnight, Glasgow print. Right: Kingston student style. Cactus print Della McKinlay, RCA. Liverpool College ethnic. Gerre Heron codpiece, St Martin's.

PHOTOGRAPHS BY SURESH KARADIA



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MEN Kingston glitter; pattern and print from Kathryn Conway. Top right: Spencer Railton textiles Glasgow. John Galliano St Martin's Napoleonic. St Martin's, London College mixed prints. Right: David Hawker Kingston.

drogues collections like Gerre Heron's stick-patterned knits, were the most interesting, although there were also some strong print and pattern stories and some imaginative uses of fabric. Sean Chiles showed a new direction in fabric finishes with his menswear collection using rubber coats and waxed cotton jackets with cotton gabardine workwear. Amanda Frosham used black nylon with mustard, yellow prints and knits. Lesley Harle joined the ethnic revival with her patchwork of textured prints.

A rare example of tailoring in a modern way with well-controlled proportions was in Jane Pollard's collection of wool separates. John Galliano wound up the St Martin's show in (almost) justifiably grandiose style with his androgynous and romantic vision of the Napoleonic era: flowing shirts, mixed print waistcoats and great coats that rolled up like the map of Europe into different sections.

Daphne Brooker, the Principal of Kingston, told me that the upsurge of interest in menswear in the college has been overwhelming - so much so that some of the men's collections had to be shown on female models. Tartan with abstract print shirts and significantly short ties made an interesting group by Kathryn Conway. Overtrousers, cut-out at the front like a trompe l'oeil codpiece was the theme of David Hawker's strong men's collection (and among other fashion students). Jean-Paul Gaultier's influence appeared in many of the print mixes - especially Nikki Charlton's paisleys and Carriona Fraser's patterned dresses.

Liverpool had a vibrant sense of colour and pattern which sang out against the plain white walls of the V. and A's Boilerhouse. Pauline Fletcher made bold traffic sign knits. Jay Jenkins cut clean baseball-inspired menswear. Rupert Townsend produced mad hats (a great relief from the Gaultier-inspired fiz elsewhere) and Andrew Hamilton Tweedale used effectively industrial paper as well as woven linens.

The London College of Fashion is a technical college and its theatre studies course produced some well-executed work, as did two projects for the Viyella centenary illustrating garment styles ancient and modern and, for The House of Hardy fishing suppliers, which trawled in some good menswear. Otherwise, there were Gaultier looks, Montana looks, an interesting print by Adele Martin and two menswear collections from Jennifer Hines and Fola Solakole.

In this season of print, Glasgow showed its first printed textile exhibition in London, with stand-out collections from Wallace Murdoch (figures in movement in primary colours), and abstract geometry from Frances Gratian.

Croydon's designs fall into two main groups: young sportswear ranges using man-made fabrics and more ethnic looks in natural, textured materials. They, like many colleges, were squeezed by the other showings. I missed several colleges and their embryonic fashion stars; others are still to come.

Additional reporting
Christine Painell

SAINT LAURENT rive gauche

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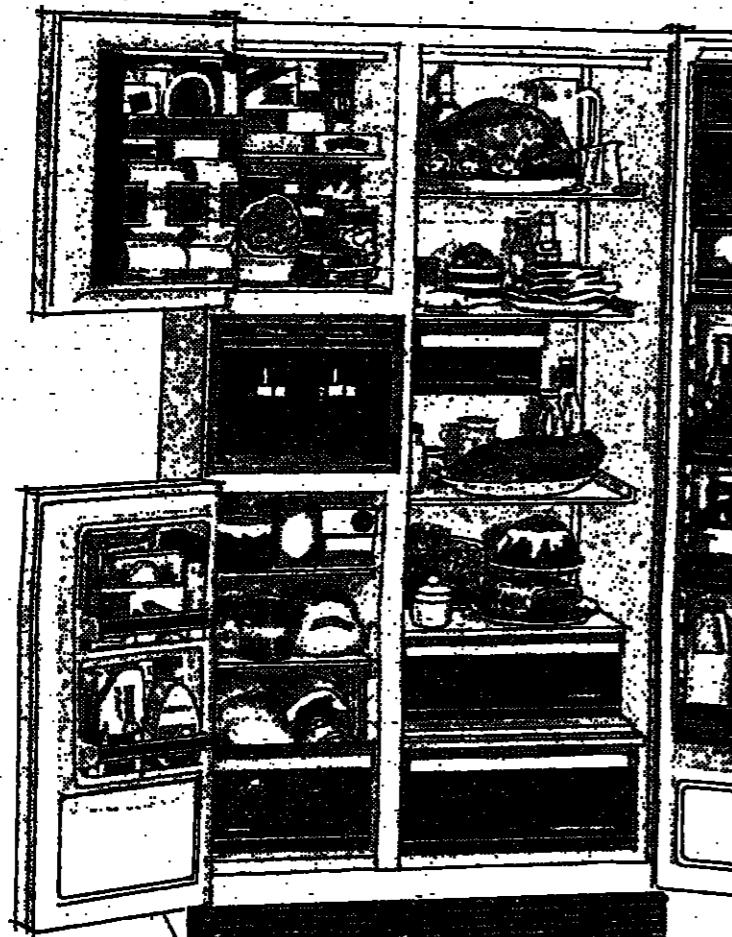
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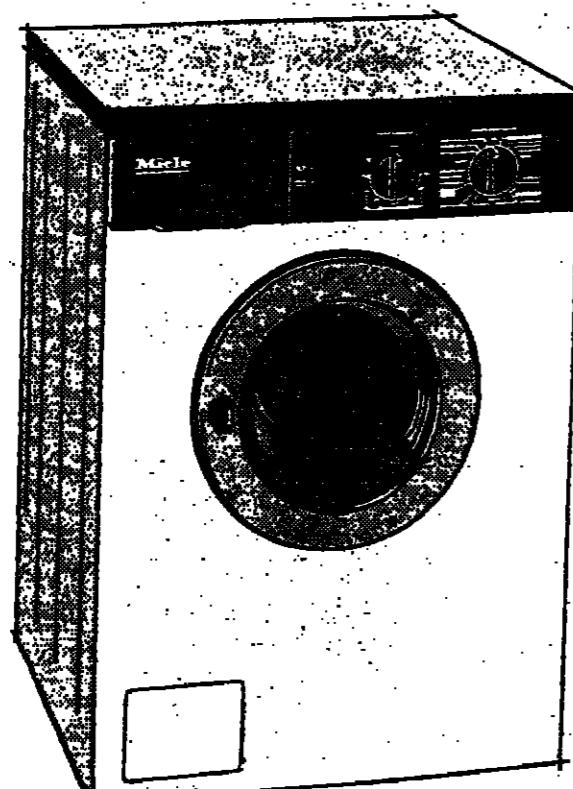


AMANA examples. Made in USA.

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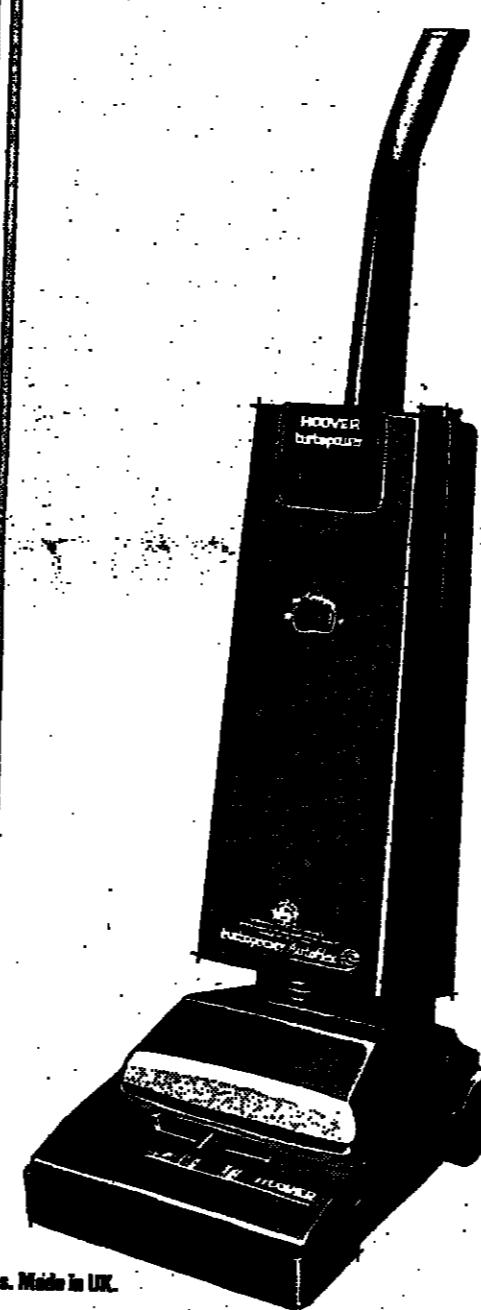


MIELE examples. Made in West Germany.

Illustrated:
Washing Machine Model W754 Dual switch control with free temperature selection. Energy saving programmes. Half-load button. 900 rpm spin speed. White finish with Dark Brown fascia. 85 x 60 x 60cm.
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HOOVER examples. Made in UK.

Illustrated:
'TurboPower Autoflex' Vacuum Cleaner Model U2188 Automatic flex rewind and built-in air freshener. Extra-wide cleaning path with powerful headlight. Three-position handle and precise control of cleaning head height. Reusable 6.5 litre bags. Case in Blue toughened plastic.
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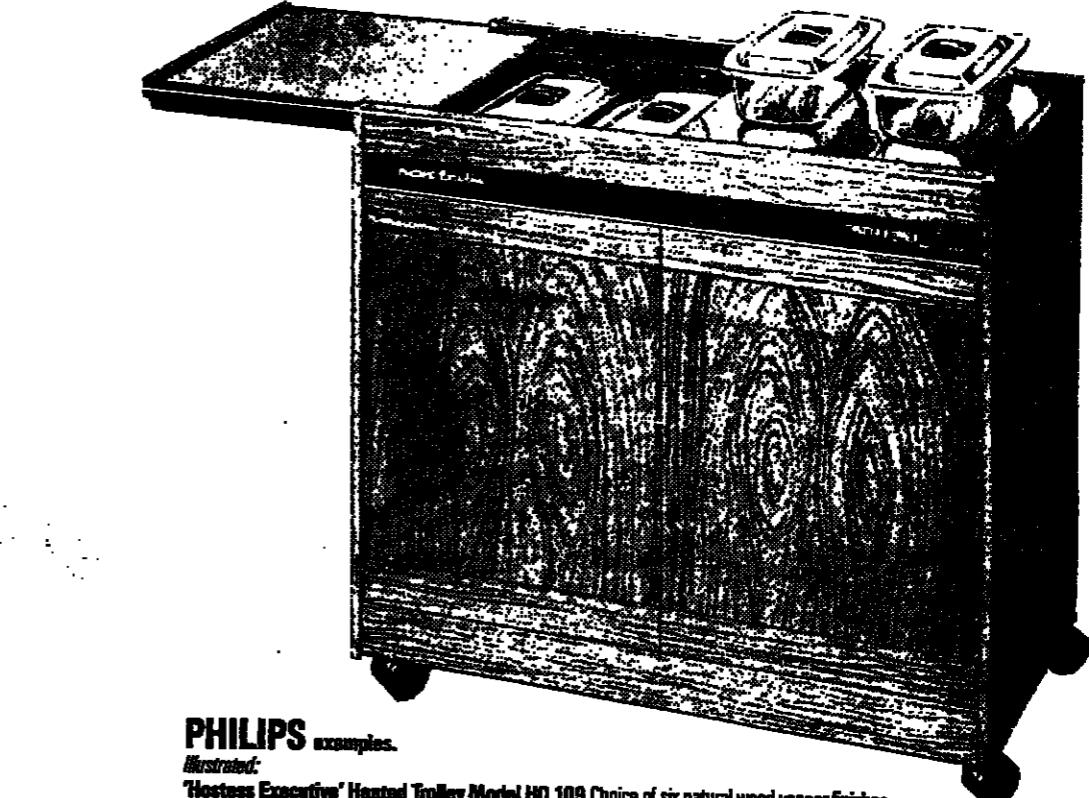
Not shown:

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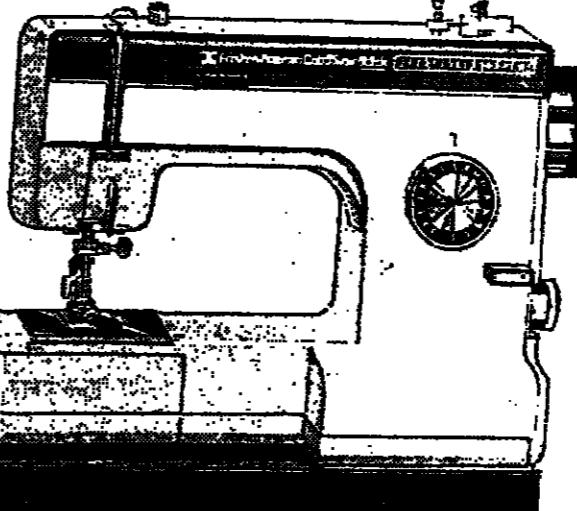


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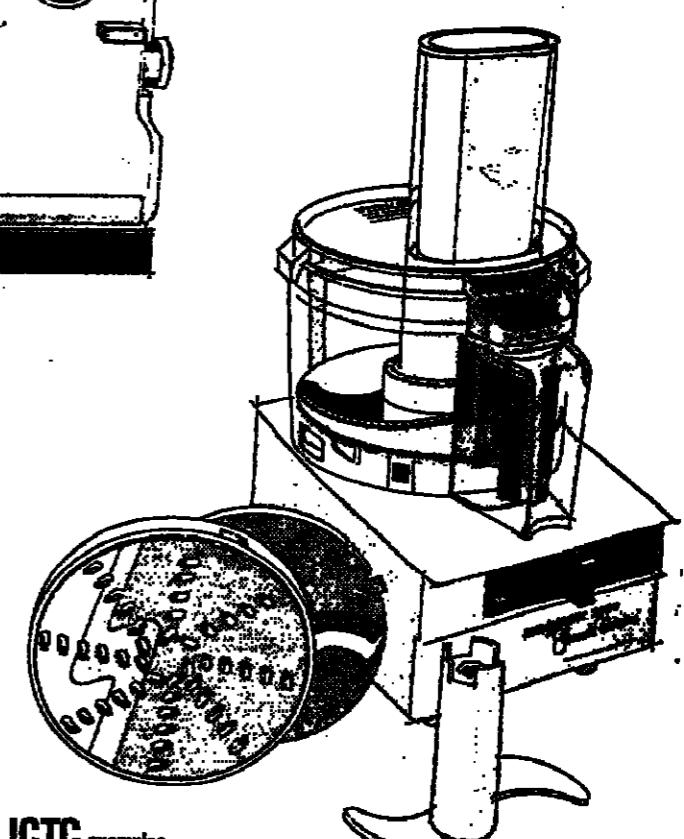


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THE TIMES DIARY

Kent – and all points east

Mr Bruce Kent, general secretary of CND, has not been deterred in the slightest by the outcry over his "partners in peace" speech to the British Communist Party last autumn. He has now written an article for a communist journal endorsing President Chernenko's "peace-oriented norms" and criticizing "the very negative voting record of our government". The publication, the Prague-based *World Marxist Review*, proclaims itself the "journal of communist and workers parties throughout the world" while the Hoover Institution calls it "the latter-day successor to the Comintern... the only formal organization joining the world communist movement under Soviet guidance". For the latest edition its Russian editor commissioned five articles from "party leaders, statesmen and civic personalities" of whom Kent is one. The others are the Bulgarian foreign minister, the Czech socialist party chairman and senior officials of the Danish and US communist parties. Enough, I should think, to give Britain's Catholic leaders terminal apoplexy.

• *Gone With The Wind* has failed to qualify for the Los Angeles Olympics. The 1939 Selznick classic has been dropped from the list of approved films for the athletes' villages because, says Olympic committee vice-president Anita DeFranz, it depicts "the negative aspects of the black experience".

Deeper freeze

Still on race, the storm continues over my disclosure of the English National Opera's alleged racism in failing to cast black singer Willard White in *Rigoletto*. The GLC swiftly froze its £1m ENO grant and now, following the receipt of "unsatisfactory" assurances from the ENO chairman, Lord Goodman, is to continue the freeze indefinitely. It says it wants positive discrimination in training and employment, a casting policy that would preclude a repetition of this episode, and an apology to White for the "hurt and injury" he has suffered. The ENO denies "racism", but with the GLC providing a tenth of its grant income, seems to have no choice but to comply.

Superslip

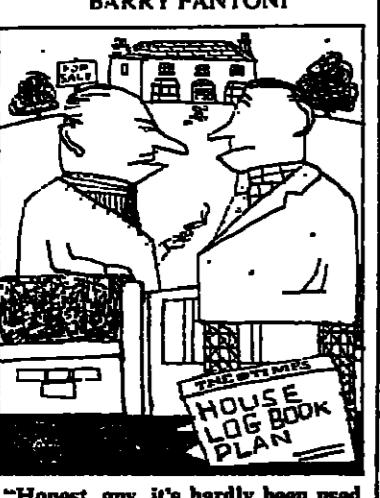
A less well-connected author might have got away with it, but not Lady Sophia Murphy. She unwisely showed a pre-publication copy of her new book on the Duchess of Devonshire's famous ball of 1897 to her uncle, Lord Stockton, Supermax, as sharp as ever despite his 90 years, got no further than the foreword by Lady Sophia's mother, the present Duchess, before seizing on a mistake in the political posts attributed to the eighth Duke in the 1890s. Now Sidwick & Jackson are hurriedly inserting errata slips into 6,000 copies of the book.

• Amid the boastful list of graduates' career achievements in the latest issue of the St Andrews' *Alumnus Chronicle*: "JONES, Susan Margaret Harwood, M. Theol, 1978, has worked as a cake finisher in a factory bakery in Newcastle since 1979 (inserting cream into chocolate eclairs on a production line.)"

Wheel deal

Nicaraguan ambassador Francisco d'Escoito attended a civic lunch at Red Ted Knight's town hall recently to celebrate Lambeth's twinning with a Nicaraguan town with the un-Latin name of Bluefields. Asked by Knight and cronies what his Marxist-controlled country needs most urgently, d'Escoito replied, bimcularly, for the revolutionary army, and bikes because the transport system has broken down. Ever obliging, the council is arranging to set up a trust fund.

BARRY FANTONI



"Honest, guv, it's hardly been used. I got it from this little old lady"

Deep-seated

TV camera crews are increasingly perplexed by the behaviour of Patrick Jenkins, Environment Secretary, when interviewed at his department's studios in Marsham Street. Twice recently he has entered the room, been seized by a fit of hostility towards the chair provided for him, and shouted: "I'm not sitting in that chair". On the third occasion, flunkies imported an expensive, brand-new model which cameramen were confident would find favour. Not so. Jenkins took one look and it too had to be replaced, prompting onlookers to ask whether he will find a chair he likes before Mrs Thatcher ousts him from his present hot seat for good.

PHS

Obey Whitehall, break the law

by Alfred Morris

Last week's mauling by the House of Lords of the Bill paving the way for abolition of the GLC and the six metropolitan councils hides a scandal which, in both legal and human terms, is much more immediately worrying to responsible opinion in town and county halls.

More and more local authorities are being forced by the Government to choose not only which of their discretionary powers to use, but even which of their legal duties to fulfil. The effect is to inflict hardship on the most needful of their ratepayers.

In particular, severely disabled people are put at risk by the increasing difficulties local councils now face in trying to meet their legal duties under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. When rate-capping starts, their dilemma will become even more cruel. "Must we break one law to stay within another law?" is how one council leader referred to the agonizing choice facing him as he contemplated the devastating effects of rate-capping on Avon's social services.

Last year, according to the Government, his council overspent £7.6m on social services. If the Government had been able to enforce its will in 1983-84, all of the council's discretionary services

would have ceased to exist. Yet that would have saved only £1.3m.

Most of Avon's cuts – totalling £6.3m – would have had to be in the services it has a legal duty to provide, such as adaptations to the homes of physically disabled people, day care for the mentally handicapped, the provision of home helps and other vitally necessary services.

"We could not have met the Government's demands by marginal economies in the services we must by law provide", said Avon's leader.

In particular, severely disabled people are put at risk by the increasing difficulties local councils now face in trying to meet their legal duties under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act. When rate-capping starts, their dilemma will become even more cruel. "Must we break one law to stay within another law?" is how one council leader referred to the agonizing choice facing him as he contemplated the devastating effects of rate-capping on Avon's social services.

Last year, according to the Government, his council overspent £7.6m on social services. If the Government had been able to enforce its will in 1983-84, all of the council's discretionary services

during the last financial year. To meet the Government's view of what the council should have spent on social services, a cut of £7.37m would have had to be imposed. This would have meant closing all four day centres for elderly people, half of its 40 luncheon clubs, two holiday homes and a training centre for disabled people. At the same time, home-help service hours would have been cut by half and all the borough's day nurseries would have been closed.

That would have involved the council in law-breaking on a massive scale. Indeed, in relation to identified need in the borough, Lewisham was already underspending on social services in 1983-84. As the leader of the council said: "Among others, our services for mentally ill and mentally handicapped people go nowhere near matching local needs. Unless our social services are cut to ribbons, there is no hope of meeting the kind of cuts the Government demands."

One official study after another makes it plain that, now, even before rate-capping has been introduced, local councils are unable to fulfil their statutory duties. Take home-

helps. While the number of people over 75 rapidly increases, the home-help service has rapidly declined in terms both of cases served and total hours of service. Yet it is the over-75s who need the home-help service most.

While Norman Fowler at the DHSS mouths the slogans of community care, Patrick Jenkin, the Environment Secretary, punishes every local attempt to make it a humane reality. And while forcing local authorities to break the law as it affects the people most at risk, they profess shock and horror at any suspicion of involvement in law-breaking by striking trade unionists, "leaking" civil servants or anyone else.

The alternative is to drive vulnerable and isolated people out of the care of their local authorities into hospitals and other institutions at far greater cost to public funds.

It is as self-defeating as it is morally culpable and could yet, as their candid friends in both Lords and Commons should tell them, land ministers themselves in court.

The author is Labour and Cooperative MP for Manchester Wythenshawe, and was Minister for the Disabled from 1974-79.

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Richard Dowden, one of the few journalists to meet both leaders of Angola's civil war, looks at the changing problems facing the Unita guerrillas



The summons to interview Jonas Savimbi came just before 3 am. "The President", as he is known to his followers, was receiving visitors in his sparsely furnished bunker beneath a reed and thatch hut at Jamba, a base of his Unita rebel movement in the south-east Angolan bush.

The contrast with his enemy, President Eduardo Dos Santos in Luanda, could not be greater. Dos Santos lives in modest but air-conditioned comfort in a former fashionable holiday village south of the capital. To interview him one drives past several security checks, dug-in tanks and anti-aircraft batteries and a double perimeter fence manned by Angolan and Cuban troops.

Savimbi, always in battle dress, is ebullient, fluent and persuasive; a ruthless robber baron of the bush who has brought thousands of his fellow Ovimbundu south to create an "alternative" Angola in the wilderness the Portuguese used to call the end of the world. The camp is awash with his pictures and slogans proclaiming his leadership. It is difficult to imagine Unita without him.

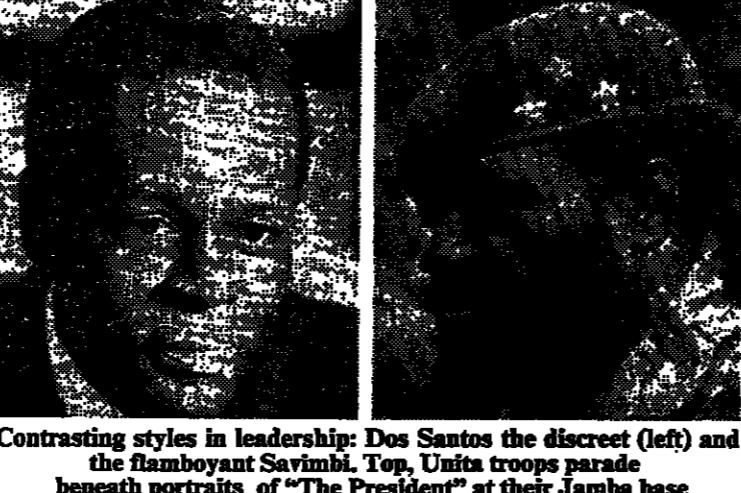
Dos Santos is reserved, earnest, bad with crowds, a technocrat responsible to a political bureau and overshadowed as a personal leader by his predecessor, Agostinho Neto. He dresses in dark suit and tie, a man of the city.

Savimbi regards the western press as an essential part of his struggle and flies in journalists to his camp to explain his cause and boost his credibility. Unita's propaganda must be among the best in the world, and the MPLA government's in Luanda among the worst. It rarely issues entry permits to western journalists and even more rarely arranges interviews with Dos Santos.

Savimbi, labelled by the MPLA as a bandit and South African puppet, wants to drive the Cubans out of Angola and form a government of national unity with Dos Santos.

He is riding on the policies of the United States and South Africa, who insist on the expulsion of the Cubans, estimated by western sources to number between 19,000 and 25,000, as a condition for the independence of neighbouring Namibia. The US State Department maintains close contact with Unita at a senior level.

Savimbi says: "If the Cubans are sent out of Angola, Namibia will be free. But as long as the MPLA fears Unita the Cubans will leave. Therefore the independence of



Angola to sell and when we cannot pay the South Africans lend us the money."

The "resources" – ivory, diamonds and timber – brought him only \$1m last year, but his "capability" amounts to between \$20m and \$25m a year. He will not discuss the sources of this finance further or where his guns come from.

Asked if he thought South Africa supported him to maintain the civil war in Angola rather than put him in power in Luanda, Savimbi says: "The South Africans want a government in Luanda which is stable and friendly to them." If he was to achieve power, he says, he does not think he would be beholden to Pretoria, but he would not tolerate anti-apartheid guerrillas operating from Angola.

Savimbi does not rely on persuasion and kidnapping alone to further his cause. On April 18 a car bomb exploded in the provincial capital of Huambo. The official Angolan news agency said 24 people were killed, among them 14 Cubans. Savimbi says the true figures were more than 200 Cubans and 15 Angolans. "You western countries cannot distinguish between a just and an unjust bomb," he said. "That was just a bomb – it was aimed at the Cubans."

When it comes to the differences between the MPLA and Unita's policies, Savimbi becomes vague. Not without reason. The officially Marxist MPLA employs De Beers, the South African mining giant, to mine its diamonds; Gulf, Elf and other western oil companies extract the oil. Most of Luanda's trade is with Western Europe while internally the government has virtually told the peasants to grow what they can, get it to market and sell it as best as soon as possible.

Savimbi gives the impression that he fights simply because he thinks he, and not Dos Santos, should rule Angola. If propaganda, persistence and strong allies were sufficient he would indeed be ruler. But the future may be decided far away from both Jamba and Luanda.

It is still not clear whether South Africa will withdraw from Namibia, but if it does, will it continue to support Savimbi? If not, has Savimbi amassed sufficient support and arms to win or even keep going?

If the MPLA are forced to dispense with their Cuban allies can they hold or defeat Unita?

Until these questions are answered the civil war will spread and worsen.

Can Savimbi survive a Pretoria deal with Swapo?

Namibia depends on a direct dialogue between Unita and the MPLA.

Dialogue is not an option the MPLA wants to take up. Having negotiated the disengagement of South African forces from areas of southern Angola occupied since 1981, the MPLA hopes to be able to redeploy more of its troops to fight Unita and defeat it militarily.

Ironically, the decrease in tension between South Africa and Angola could lead to an intensification of the civil war inside Angola.

But victory in this war may be beyond the grasp of either side. The country is two and a half times the size of France with a population of less than eight million. Bigger and better equipped armies could spend years battling it out in the bush and just searching for each other.

Savimbi's troops hold territory in the south-east and coordinate their operation in that area with the South Africans. In the central highlands, Ovimbundu territory, Unita operates as a classic bush guerrilla force. Elsewhere it sends out brigades of up to 2,000 men to seize towns or other strategic points, hold them briefly, and take hostages. Savimbi says his men play on the failures of the government and try to win hearts

and minds. When the Angolan army counter-attacks, they fade into the bush. Despite its MiG21s and helicopter gunships, the government has had little success in driving the rebels back.

The MPLA holds the important towns and, more important, the oilfields in Cabinda – an Angolan enclave within Zaire – which provide 90 per cent of the country's revenue. Cabinda is a problem, says Savimbi. "But it will not be impossible. We may be talking about this soon."

Unita's most dramatic tactic has been the kidnapping of foreign workers. It gives both the captors and Jamba itself immunity from attack and has forced Britain and Czechoslovakia to send senior diplomats to treat with Savimbi on his own ground. It has also seriously questioned the future of Czechoslovak workers in Angola and the future of the diamond mining operation in the north-east.

Savimbi makes no secret of his South African connexion. "When they understood that our guerrillas had a strategic value they started to help us," he says. "We cooperate in everything except guns. The South Africans don't give us guns. We have our own resources inside

and outside."

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P.O. Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WCIX 8EZ. Telephone: 01-837 1234

WHO BENEFITS?

Lord Scarman has called the 1980 social security reform (an exercise curiously forgotten in the recent excitement over Mr Fowler's review, despite its four years in preparation) a "logical development of the great principle that social security is not a charity but a right." The logic certainly seems to be accepted by the administrative rationalizers, left and right on the political spectrum, who want to simplify the system of state income maintenance. Yet Lord Scarman's "principle" is still only dubiously articulated in the regulations governing handouts to claimants. More important, his logic is misleading both as a guide to the historical development of social security in Britain and in understanding the attitudes of the British public (who include officials making payments and many of the claimants) towards those who fall below the lines of income minima.

Like it or not - poverty professionals do not - the public express reservations about social benefits paid universally; tests of means and need are widely regarded as necessary in disbursing public money to the poor; in the eyes of many such payments are tainted as charity or dole. Those who would substitute for the present (complex) system some more clean-cut and well-ordered scheme would do well to remember that there is a moral element to the alleviation of poverty and that the "stigma" of receiving public doles may yet be an uncomfortable but indigenous element in the British social make-up and that the occasionally atavistic attitude

taken by taxpayers in work towards certain classes of benefit receivers is rooted not in some conspiracy of popular newspapers but in a commendable faith in an ethic of labour and masculine responsibility.

At first sight the voluminous account of the operations of poverty relief since the 1980 reform produced for the Department of Health and Social Security by the Policy Studies Institute is solid fuel for rationalizers spurred by Lord Scarman's logic. It paints a dismal picture of benefits unclaimed, gross regional variations in amounts paid to people in similar circumstance, all hidden behind a thick screen of ignorance on the part of officials as well as claimants about the regulatory detail.

Yet the study says more. It gives important evidence that for several major classes of beneficiaries, the level of Supplementary Benefit is probably about right - and most certainly indicates that there can be no action on benefits received by families with an unemployed head until the position of low income families where the head works is ameliorated.

In addition, the study shows how - unavoidably - any system that however crudely attempts to match benefits to family circumstances will be shot through with detailed, and moral, judgments about need and capacity. The alternative is a system of income support in bands so broad that there would be no place for unforeseen illness or household budget error. Such an alternative is either hopelessly costly or capable of pushing some families into outright destitution.

The PSI study is best read in conjunction with an admirably clear paper published at the weekend by a former DHSS under-secretary, Mr Geoffrey Beltram, under the auspices of the London School of Economics. It will not please those who wish the entire system of Supplementary Benefit could be swept away in large-scale reform; but it offers much to those - the bureaucrats and serving politicians - who will have to live with the system until the great day of computerization dawns (1990?) or until some radical temper convulses ministers their present narrow, departmental focus is inadequate.

The two studies show convincingly that the 1980 reform, intended to replace discretionary payments with claimants' rights backed by regulation has only half-succeeded. But, four years on, it is by no means clear that the direction of local DHSS offices should be further reduced; it now appears there is considerable human value, given the nature of poverty and poor people, in case work, in adjusting benefits to particular family conditions (an approach which costs civil service jobs). No one is suggesting a return to the days when a National Assistance local officer could on his own initiative authorize the payments of half a crown a week to evening cups of Horlicks for the poor old people in his ten. Rather, these studies - which Mr Newton's review team would do well to absorb - remind us that the language of entitlements and rights needs careful interpretation in its application to the relief of poverty.

EXIT TRUDEAU: ENTER TURNER

The new era of Canadian political life is now officially under way. Mr John Turner achieved his long-standing ambition at the weekend, when he was sworn in as the nation's seventeenth prime minister. Within the next nine months a general election must be called, and only with victory at the polls will Mr Turner be in a position fully to consolidate his aspirations.

Mr Pierre Trudeau's act will be a difficult one to follow. Canada has lost a brilliant intellect and the most experienced of Western statesmen. But Canada is ready for the change, since recently irritation with Mr Trudeau has been considerable and was largely responsible for bringing his Liberal party to a disastrously low point in the opinion polls behind its main opponent, the Progressive Conservative Party.

Liberals like to see themselves as the party of government. The view is justified: the party has been in power for most of the century. Had Liberals thought that Mr Trudeau could reverse the party's position in the opinion polls and win the next general election, they would have stuck with him. Whatever the regret within the party at the passing of the great man, Liberals are joyful at the revival in their fortunes that has coincided exactly with the period since Mr Trudeau announced on February 29 his intention to step down. The Liberals are now running neck and neck with the Conservatives in the opinion

polls and Mr Turner finds himself under great pressure from many leading members of his party and government to call an election almost immediately.

In the two weeks since he won the leadership, he has already started to put his stamp on the Liberals and the government. True to his promise to reduce the size of government, and to increase ministerial responsibility, his cabinet has eight fewer members than Mr Trudeau's. The number of Cabinet committees has been cut from thirteen to ten.

Despite this activity, many Canadians may feel that Mr Turner's changes of personnel are not radical enough, and do not distance him, as he clearly wishes to be distanced, from his predecessor. This team will seem to some to be a caretaker cabinet.

Mr Turner has done well to secure the services of Mr Jean Chretien, his closest rival in last month's leadership contest, who is made Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of External Affairs. In all, 23 members of Mr Trudeau's team have posts under Turner, however, and this has already led Conservatives to observe that the public is being offered "the same old bunch".

Mr Turner has made one other decision that is vitally important: having no seat in the House of Commons he has announced that he will offer himself as a candidate in British Columbia. Liberals not only like to think of themselves as the party of government, they simul-

taneously see themselves as the national party of Canada. In recent years this has clearly not been true. The west has detested Mr Trudeau. When the announcement of his resignation came, businessmen in Calgary danced jigs. The Liberals won all but one of the 75 seats from Quebec at the last general election and have no parliamentary seats in the three most westerly provinces - British Columbia, Alberta and Saskatchewan. Mr Turner has determined to make the Liberals a truly national party and has vigorously raised his banner in the west.

At this early stage it is difficult to discern fundamental policy differences between the new prime minister and the old. Mr Turner has made the sluggish economy his top priority. He is likely to be less innovative with social policies and less interested in the language issue than was Mr Trudeau. His policies will be conservative with a small 'c'.

The most important differences between the two, however, are likely to be in style rather than in policies. Mr Trudeau was prickly. United States Administrations and a generation of Canadian businessmen found him unpredictable. Mr Turner is setting out to be constructive and businesslike, to provide continuity and predictability. There is good reason to believe that, after being governed for the better part of sixteen years by a brilliant prime minister, Canadians will welcome what Mr Turner has to offer.

My nine-year-old daughter doesn't have a cafeteria system at her school. The meals aren't much better. She takes sandwiches, too. Yours faithfully,
DEIRDRE HENDERSON,
16 Ashton Cross,
East Well,
Romsey,
Hampshire.

June 27.

Man of letters

From Mr Henry G. Button

Sir, The supplement on Aston University (June 25) revealing a vice-chancellor with no fewer than 40 post-nominal letters. Is this a record for a vice-chancellor?

Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Amhurst Court,
Grange Road,
Cambridge.

June 27.

Hospitals in North-west

From Professor Miles Irving

Sir, The North Western Regional Health Authority is one of the largest in the United Kingdom, serving a population not much smaller than that of Scotland. It has a long history of deprivation in the health services and the majority of its hospitals are old and decrepit.

In the whole of this large region not one new district general hospital has been completed since the war, although admittedly the new Preston Hospital requires only one further phase. I do not know of any other region in England or Wales with such an appalling record and the situation is in marked contrast to that in London and Scotland.

Over the last 15 years determined efforts have been made by our regional health authority and the University of Manchester to expand and improve medical services in the cities and surrounding towns. One major part of this activity was the

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

On trial for acts against terrorists

From Mr S. D. Hall-Jones

Sir, The troublesome issue of the prosecution of members of the security forces for offences alleged to have been committed whilst on duty in Northern Ireland is not made less troublesome by Mr Michael O'Connell's assertion (June 26) in relation to the policy of the Director of Public Prosecutions in Northern Ireland to prosecute members of the security forces before "Diplock" courts that "no such policy can possibly exist".

I had the privilege of serving as Lieutenant-Colonel Wakerley's (letter, June 12) staff captain in Northern Ireland and can assure Mr O'Connell that not only was there such a "policy" but that it was strenuously enforced.

Furthermore, despite repeated representations by the GOC Northern Ireland to the two Attorneys General holding office during that year, the "policy" was endorsed. Whether or not to "deschedule" the offence was, and I have no doubt continues to be, a political decision.

However all of this misses the true point, which Colonel Wakerley sought to make, which is the utterly deplorable situation of subjecting a member of the security forces to trial (sometimes many months after the event) in connection with his use of force in performing his military duties.

What the DPP, and vicariously the Attorney General, failed to appreciate was the difference between the actions of a soldier on patrol taking time off to rob a grocery store and a soldier on patrol genuinely (though mistakenly) believing that a person had a gun and shooting him.

That in the latter case the unfortunate soldier might face prosecution for this alleged "offence" is, in my view, without doubt the most damaging factor to the morale of the troops stationed in the province. I wonder just how many members of the security forces have lost their lives because they were inhibited in their use of force by the threat of prosecution if they "got it wrong".

It should be stressed that no one is advocating immunity from prosecution for members of the security forces in all cases, and certainly no such immunity has been conferred in any other counter-terrorist theatre in which British armed forces have been engaged.

What was, and still is, being advocated is that soldiers, heavily-armed and highly-trained for war, should not have their reactions to "the agony of the moment" subjected to the same court process as the premeditated actions of cold-blooded killers seeking to enforce their views by the use of the gun.

I have the honour to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

FRANK VOGL,
The World Bank,
Washington,
DC 20433.
June 28.

From Mr Charles Morrison, MP for Devizes (Conservative)

Sir, The book, *Full Circle into the Future*, by the Henley Centre for

A helping hand with population control

From Mr Frank Vogl

Sir, David Blake's article on June 25, suggesting that the population problem is more imaginary than real, is comforting and no doubt will assure those who are complacent about the welfare of future generations. But the growth of population is a central development issue, not a fake one as Mr Blake indicates in his final paragraph.

There are opportunities to assist developing nations slow population growth rates in humane ways most sensitive to cultural traditions and private rights. Failure to assist will ensure that hundreds of millions of people will be condemned to survive in conditions of wretched poverty for generations to come.

There is a certain, not fictional, explosion in global population ahead of us, resulting directly from current trends. By the middle of the next century, assuming some decline in current fertility rates, the population of the poorer nations of the world will be more than double the present 3.6bn level. Such large populations will produce increasing pressures on arable land and natural resources, on urban conditions indeed on political stability.

The *World Development Report* 1984, which the World Bank will publish shortly, outlines the problems in precise detail and offers clear courses for action to guard against the enormous threat to economic and social progress that rapid population growth poses.

Mr Blake strives to separate the population issue from the broad issues of economic and social development, but it cannot be separated; it is central to this broad issue. He offers no action plan to secure development. He urges in effect, a sense of complacency and so, unwittingly, fails to recognize the implications of current fertility rates and the realities of current rapid population growth.

He joins those who, in effect, are undisturbed by the prospect of shackling much of the globe's future population to conditions of intolerable penury. May we urge him and others to be less influenced by assertions that have no solid factual foundation.

Sincerely,
FRANK VOGL,
The World Bank,
Washington,
DC 20433.
June 28.

From Mr Charles Morrison, MP for Devizes (Conservative)

Sir, The book, *Full Circle into the Future*, by the Henley Centre for

Forecasting, described in the article "Gloom mongers at bay" (June 25) should not be taken as wholly authoritative.

The Henley Centre seems to conclude that, because birth rates are falling, the problem of population growth is solved. That is a dangerous assumption.

It is true that population growth in the developing countries has declined from 2.4 per cent during 1965-70 to an estimated 2 per cent during 1980-85. But this does not mean that numbers in these countries are diminishing; a population growth rate of 2 per cent means that it will take 35 years for the population to double in size instead of the 28 years it takes with a population growth of 2.4 per cent.

Even if every woman of child-bearing age had only two children, the world's population would still, because of its age structure (35 per cent are under 15), continue to grow for some 60 years.

The apparent misunderstanding by the Henley Centre of the whole matter of population growth throws doubt on its analysis of other problems.

On the superficial evidence provided, it would be dangerous if Britain were lulled into a false sense of complacency and thought it no longer necessary to respond to requests from Third World countries for financial and practical help with population programmes. To help countries to maintain this downward trend increased support is needed.

This August, as a result of requests from developing countries, the United Nations is holding an international conference on population in Mexico City - itself an outstanding example of population growth, having expanded from 4.9 million in 1960 to 10.9 million in 1975, and scheduled to have a population of 31.6 million by the end of the century.

No one knows what population the world can sustain. Thus, the anxieties of the developing countries where overwhelmingly population growth will occur must be respected. In any case, it must not be forgotten that ultimately the effects of population growth will affect standards of living throughout the world and not just in less developed countries.

Yours faithfully,

CHARLES MORRISON.

Chairman,
British Parliamentary Group
on Population and Development,
House of Commons.

June 27.

From Mrs Jacqueline Herbert

Sir, "A blow for democracy" is how Ken Livingstone welcomed the result of the vote in the House of Lords.

I, the irony of that blow having been struck by an institution which is itself under threat of being abolished by the Labour Party for being outdated and undemocratic?

Yours faithfully,

JACQUELINE HERBERT.

30 Clevedon Drive,
Earley,
Reading,
Berkshire.

June 29.

From Mr R. J. Leeson

Sir, Your editorial (June 30) gets it wrong.

The real irony of the GLC vote situation is that an unreformed House of Lords still knows more about democracy than a Tory-dominated House of Commons.

Yours faithfully,

R. A. LEESON,
18 McKenzie Road,
Broxbourne,
Hertfordshire.

June 30.

GLC dilemma for the Government

From Miss Thamaz Maelver

Sir, The Lords appear to have had two main objections to the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Bill: that the cancellation of the GLC elections before Parliament had decided to abolish the GLC and that to substitute for the present council body of borough representatives was deliberately to change the political complexion of the capital's governing body without meeting its people.

The "Mountgarret solution" - prolonging the life of the present council until Parliament has decided to abolish the GLC and then replacing it by a group of borough representatives - does not meet either of these objections.

The elections would still be cancelled before Parliament had decided to abolish the GLC, political control of the capital would still be changed without a vote.

Yours,
THAMAR MAELVER,
33 Granard Road, SW12.

From Mrs Jacqueline Herbert

Sir, "A blow for democracy" is how Ken Livingstone welcomed the result of the vote in the House of Lords.

How may people be savouring, I, the irony of that blow having been struck by an institution which is itself under threat of being abolished by the Labour Party for being outdated and undemocratic?

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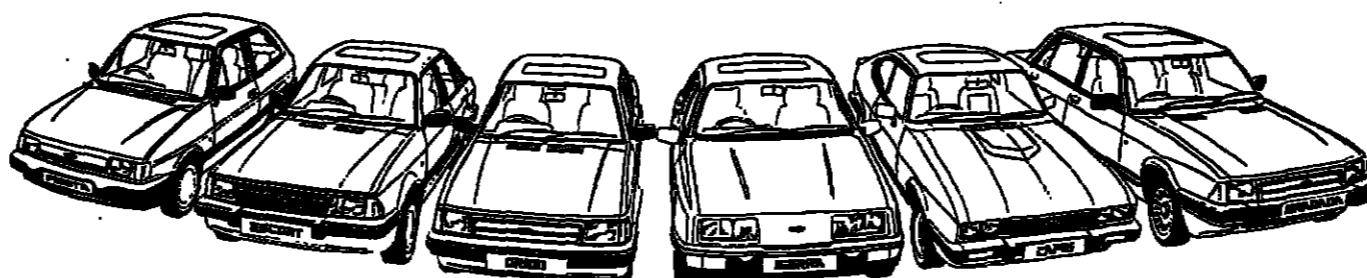
June 30.

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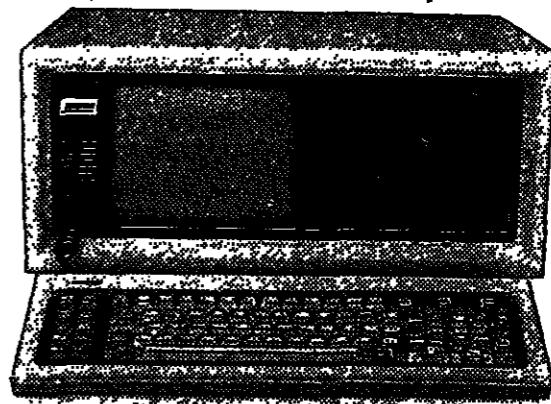
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● Competition winners: Page 20

COMPUTER HORIZONS

Edited by Matthew May

This week has provided two timely reminders that computers, offices and homes will be using satellites to communicate with each other and that they will be as valuable in transporting information as they will be in transmitting television pictures. These satellites - particularly DBS (Direct Broadcasting by Satellite) - will be able to offer business and domestic information services similar to that envisaged for cable.

The first reminder was the publication of the EEC Green Paper on transmissions across European frontiers. While it debated the issue of television broadcasts from satellite possibly violating the sanctity of member states' national boundaries, it also believed the transfer of information - to be used by businesses or consumers across Europe - was equally as important.

The crux of the EEC Green Paper and the one issue which will cause most conflict is the rights Europeans have, under the Treaty of Rome, to unrestricted access to information transmissions.

The EEC concluded: "Certainly, broadcasting is a strategic sector of the Community's service economy, particularly as technical change increases the scope and availability of programmes and associated services including new information and communications services which will create many opportunities for innovation and employment."

"It constitutes one of the main factors accelerating the transition to an economy that will in large part be based on ready access to information and to rapid methods of communication."

The most efficient vehicle for that intercontinental communication is satellites. Low-powered and high-powered, although the EEC appears more concerned with the latter. Broadcasting is a powerful medium for the communication for all kinds of

Satellites ring in the changes

information, the Green Paper continues.

It thereby influences the attitudes of all Community citizens, and projects the means by which they can influence the attitude of others. Moreover, the range of matters with which it deals is extremely broad: from the essentially practical, such as training in manual skills for use in the home or at work through the commercial... to the citizen as

citizen as consumer who may provide the primary source of finance for these satellites - entertainment channels funding the information

THE WEEK

By Bill Johnstone

services. He visit last week to London of the chairman of the board of directors and chief executive officer of Communications Satellite Corporation (COMSAT). Dr Joseph V Charyk was the second of the timely reminders. It is the COMSAT subsidiary Satellite Television Corporation (STC) which is to launch the first American DBS satellite in 1986 to offer not just entertainment channels but "a wealth of informational and transactional services."

"Assessing the market for these services is very critical," claims Charyk, who visualizes computer

software for home micros being transmitted over his DBS link.

Finding the right balance between entertainment and information services both to businesses and home computer users is as critical as ensuring that satellite antennae are available at the correct price.

"The worse thing that can happen is to find one of the two out of balance," says the COMSAT chairman.

Armenian shopping, giving consumers access via satellite to mail order catalogues housed in computers, is one of the sophisticated services that COMSAT envisage. The satellite would effectively provide an instant national information and retailing network.

Too much debate has been given in

the past to the entertainment capability but COMSAT and the EEC are aware that the other services could be as important since they offer a opportunity for clawing back a proportion of the monies needed for these satellite projects. The COMSAT venture will cost the company about \$70m. There are 20 million homes/units and small businesses in the United States which could use satellites for communication. Such satellites could provide cheap intercontinental data communications in Europe - if the restrictions on telecommunications imposed by the member states are relaxed. Unrestricted services will undoubtedly be provided by the entrepreneurs and under EEC law they will claim it is right. It will be opposed by the telecommunications authorities of the member states.

A DBS satellite, depending on its design, could offer information services to small or large businesses - which would like to be independent of Europe's telecommunication authorities.

The laws and the attitudes of the member states to intercontinental broadcasting and telecommunications need to be altered dramatically. Small companies - the prime source of new jobs in Europe and the United States - are becoming more automated using their own microcomputer systems, but they are also demanding access to cheap and quick telecommunications. High powered DBS could be the answer.

Says the EEC: "One of the principle components in the development of the infrastructure necessary for a modern information and communications network will be cable and broadcasting systems... those providing the new services can count on access to a single broadcasting area corresponding to the European Community as a whole."

That would be unacceptable to most of the governments in Europe. The EEC insists that its green paper is only a discussion document and not yet policy.

However, it is at pains to emphasise:

"In exercising their democratic rights and fulfilling their responsibilities, Community citizens must be able to draw upon a range of information, ideas and opinion that reflect the variety of the Community itself."

Most of the European states - Britain is no exception - are striving to maintain their interests in telecommunications and broadcasting while being members of the Community. Cross-frontier transmissions from DBS satellite without restrictions will seriously test that unity and prove whether such freedom is but an idealistic rhetoric.

'Technology without frontiers.' EEC, 8 Storeys Gate, London SW1 3AT.

● Sinclair's Euro-push: Page 18

Two bright hopes from the land of Psion

By Michael Prest
Psion, the British software house with international ambitions, last week launched its first hardware product, a pocket computer called the Organiser. At the same time, Dr David Potter, Psion's founder and majority shareholder, unveiled a suite of integrated software, named Xchange, with which it plans to enter the market currently dominated by the likes of Lotus.

Both products mark a big step forward in Psion's long-term growth plans. The Organiser is a calculator-sized storage and retrieval system with a keyboard and LED display. Its central feature is a memory system based on two solid-state datapacks. Psion has called these "solid-state drives".

The drives, roughly the dimensions of a fat thumb, come in 8K and 16K versions. They can be removed and inserted like cartridges. Psion is offering datapacks already programmed to cover financial, mathematical, and scientific and engineering applications and promises a full software library.

The great attraction is the ease with which information can be entered and retrieved from the Organiser. By simply turning the machine on, pressing "save" and writing in, say, a list of names and addresses one can compile a modest data base.

that the computer is already in production. The price will be £100 with 8K and 16K datapacks selling for £19 and £13 respectively. Pre-programmed packs will be £30.

Despite forecasting a "huge" market for the Organiser among general and professional users, Dr Potter emphasises that Psion has no plans to produce more hardware. The Organiser, he says, was built to solve the frustrating problems of how to run the software which the house was developing.

Xchange is the highest expression of that software. It is a more powerful and complex version of the Psion software built into the Sinclair QL computer. Indeed, the names are the same - Quill for wordprocessing, Archive for database management, Abacus for financial planning and Easel for graphics.

The difference, however, is twofold. The system is fully integrated so that different components can be bought separately and built up into a whole. Second, it needs a minimum of 256K RAM and 320K disc capacity to run. The market for Xchange, therefore, is the 16-bit business machine. Early versions will be available for the IBM PC and XT. Versions for the Apple Macintosh and DEC Rainbow are promised for the autumn. Dr Potter stresses

IBM facing up to anti-trust inquiry

By Kevan Pearson

The world's largest computer manufacturer, IBM, is once again in the grip of an anti-trust investigation by the US Justice Department just 2½ years after a previous case against the company was abandoned. The current investigation centres on several legal agreements made between IBM and some of its competitors, chiefly Hitachi, one of Japan's largest computer manufacturers, and National Advanced Systems, which markets Hitachi computers in Europe and the US. Hitachi makes computers which run IBM programs - so called plug compatible computers.

In 1982 Hitachi was accused of attempting to steal IBM technical secrets. It pleaded guilty in a criminal case and lost a civil suit to IBM resulting in an agreement under which it would pay the US company \$2m to \$4m a month over several years. It also agreed to allow IBM to inspect its products 60 days after they are first installed at customer sites, to inform IBM if anyone approaches it with anything which might be considered to be stolen from IBM and to forgo the right to sue IBM in favour of assessment by an independent tribunal.

NAS, which was never charged with criminal offences, was also sued by IBM in a civil case. According to NAS president Mr David Martin, his company settled out of court with IBM, under similar terms to the Hitachi agreement but without the monthly payment, to avoid a costly and protracted legal battle. Mr Martin maintains that NAS did not commit any criminal offence.

The US Justice Department became interested in the case last October, and began an investigation to establish whether the agreements raise "any significant problems under US Anti-trust law", says assist-

ant US attorney general, M.J. Paul McGrath.

The Justice Department maintains that it is a "routine" investigation. But Mr Bo Djordjevic, a US industry analyst and newsletter publisher who has spoken with Justice Department attorney, says he believes the case goes "beyond trade secret issues and settlement terms".

IBM's competitors say they are pleased that the agreements are under investigation, but are "very suspicious of the motives behind the case" according to one executive who asked to remain unnamed.

He said that from IBM's public statements it is looking increasingly as if the company will lose the anti-trust case in Europe, and Justice Department officials may be concerned because they "dropped the 13-year anti-trust case in the US 2½ years ago," letting IBM off the hook.

The present justice department investigation is much narrower than the previous case against the company. In the 13-year case, which ended in January 1982, the Justice Department claimed that IBM's size and influence in the market were generally bad for competition. It sought to break the company into several smaller, autonomous companies. The case was dropped by Mr William Baxter former Assistant US Attorney General who said the case was "without merit". He was heavily criticized at the time by Justice David Edlestein, trial judge, who wanted to continue.

It was after the case was dropped that IBM began to take a much harder line with companies allegedly using its trade secrets. In addition to the cases against Hitachi and NAS, it sued several start-up ventures, set up by former employees hoping to use their knowledge of the IBM Personal Computer.

Chase client deal

By Sid Smith

A software package which allows clients to call up and manipulate banking data has been launched by Chase Manhattan Bank.

The package, called the Chase Global MicroStation, permits a customer's office microcomputer to telephone the bank's mainframe machine, to gather data from it, and to integrate that data into its own financial planning software. Customers can therefore both examine banking transactions and incor-

porate that information into the kind of hypothetical exercises possible on their micro under commercial "spreadsheet" programs.

The Global MicroStation is designed to support the Chase's existing InforCash electronic banking system - which provides information about cash flows and allows the initiation of transactions.

The MicroStation is at present configured to run on the IBM PC-XT, but the Chase is adapting the system for other business micros. Incorporated in the package is the Lotus 1-2-3 electronic spreadsheet, though the company claims that it can easily be linked to other software - even the user's internally-developed applications.

According to the Chase's Clem Redendale, the notable aspect of the system is its decision-support capability. You can play the "what-if" games very quickly and easily using the Lotus 1-2-3 software - an application which will be particularly useful for corporate treasurers.

The Lotus software is closely integrated into the electronic banking software so that, selecting Lotus 1-2-3 from the menu, the user finds that balance and transaction data has already been transferred to 1-2-3 in spreadsheet form.

Sorting, consolidating and "what-if" functions are then immediately available.

The Global MicroStation package is available now at £3,600 a year though no hardware is included.

Fact.

The personal computers which come quickest to mind are often surprisingly slow workers.

Certainly when compared to the NEC Advanced Personal Computer.

Precious few micros have NEC-sized 8" disks. (These store up to two million characters).

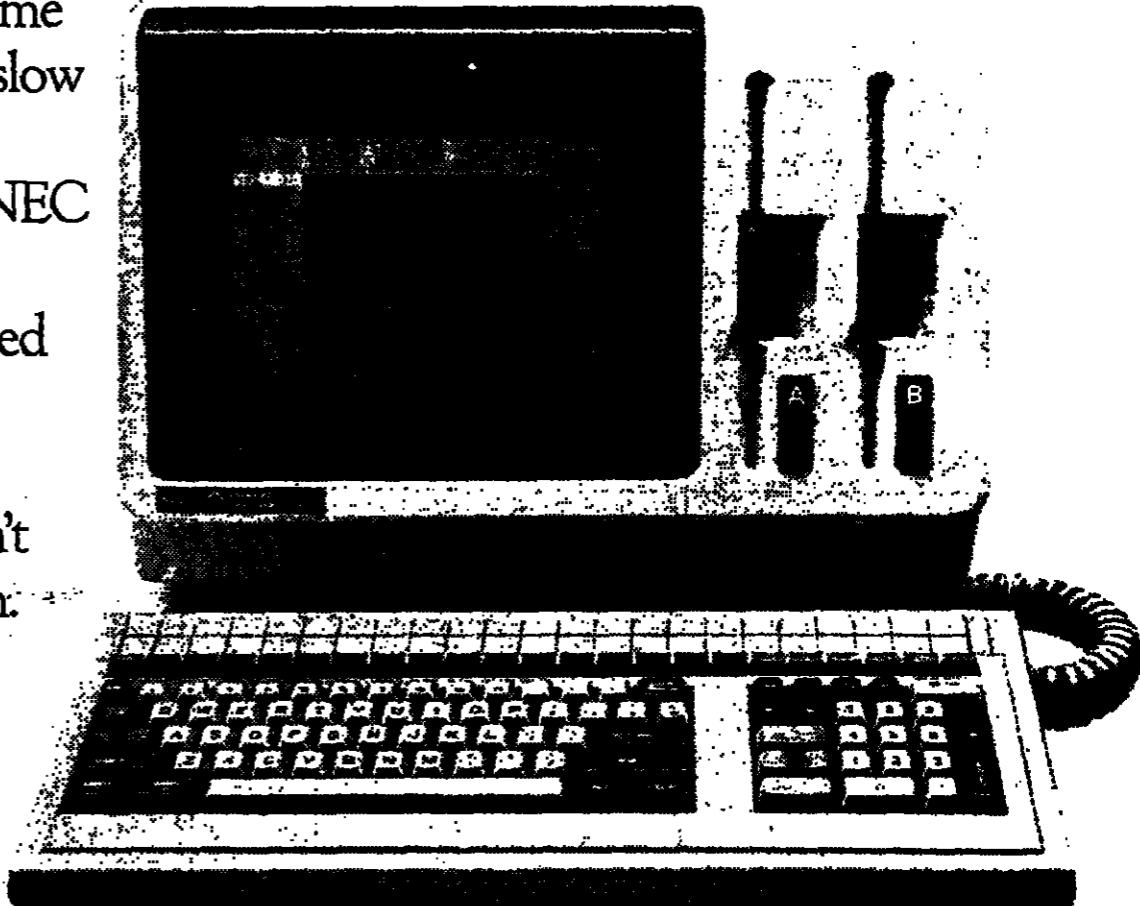
And unlike the APC, they just can't cope with large amounts of data at a run.

Adapting the more popular PC's forward-processing can also prove a lengthy process.

But with the APC, 38 word-processing operations are ready programmed into the keyboard.

While for straight number-crunching, the APC can take a bite out of both the Apple and the IBM PC's timings.

Of course, NEC has an advantage which is as unfair as it's unusual.



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There's a moral here.

Before you buy a PC for the nameplate, check to see if this isn't the only thing the company makes itself.

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NEC
NEC Corporation

By Geoff Wheelwright

As Sinclair Research struggles to get its new QL computer to UK customers in quantity, the company can take some satisfaction from the way European and world markets are reacting to its earlier Spectrum and ZX-81 home computers.

Sinclair claims that the Spectrum has recently grabbed 15 per cent of the quickly developing home computer market and is achieving similar success in France, Germany and Italy. The company says it sold more than 250,000 Spectrums in Europe last year, and this year expects that figure to top half a million.

The European success of the Spectrum has prompted Sinclair

to open its own offices in France and Germany.

The Spectrum isn't the only Sinclair machine making a dent in foreign markets — in many South American and African countries the good old ZX-81 is still a popular black and white computer. It's gaining a new lease of life. The fact is that the ZX-81 is about as cheap a computer as you can buy and it uses a black and white display. Since many households in developing nations have only black and white televisions, the power of more modern colour computers appeals less.

Some foreign Sinclair distributors are also taking an active part in tailoring the machines to meet their own needs. Sinclair's Middle East distributor, for example, developed a plug-in chip for the ZX-81 that allows it to be used and programmed with the full Arabic character set — including the requirement of having text start at the right-hand side of the screen and move to the left. A similar conversion has now been done for the Spectrum.

Foreign markets have not always been a comfort to the company — Sinclair's joint

re-boxed it as the Timex/Sinclair TS 1000 Sinclair was selling ZX-81s in the US at a rate of 40,000 a month.

Sinclair has made its own errors in Europe. The company admits that its late entry into the French home computer market gave Oric computers (also a UK firm) a chance to establish a firm foothold across the channel with the Oric-1 colour home computer. Sinclair attributes the delay in its French launch of the Spectrum to problems in adapting the machine for the French TV standard, but now claims to be sharing a healthy chunk of the French home computer market with Oric and Thompson (a French computer firm which makes a colour micro).

Sinclair's smash and grab

The easy way to IT knowhow

For the newcomer to personal business computing, several sources of help and information are available, in addition to visiting a local dealer's showroom, writes Geoff Ellis. Probably still the easiest is absorbing information from old-fashioned books, enabling the novice to bone up on the subject in the privacy of their own home before confronting the dealer in person, thus avoiding possible red faces.

As a comprehensive introduction to the subject, *The Penguin Book of Personal Computing* (£3.95) by John Graham is a veritable "museum parvo", touching on most areas why and how a PC works, advice on programming languages, home and business applications, networking, and software evaluation. Graham has avoided falling into the trap of listing current models, listings which, with the volatile market, make other books out of date even before publication.

A similar formula, but with a greater emphasis on business

use is adopted by Jacquie Megarry in her book *Computers mean Business* (Kogan Page, £12.95). It is an easy read, allowing the reader to move at random through the sections of special interest. Mixed with a selection of line drawings and diagrams, this is a first rate primer for anyone thinking of introducing a computer into a small business.

The most popular application for a business micro is that of word processing, and this topic is covered in a book by Francis

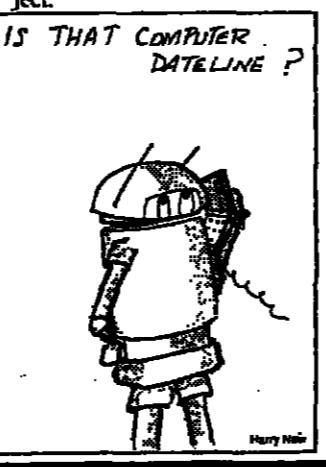
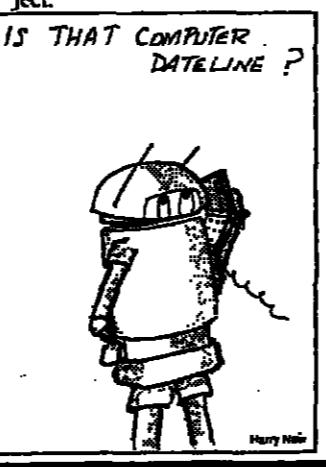
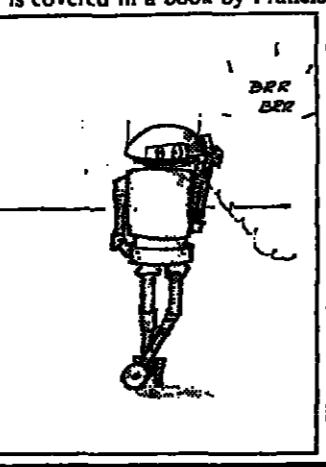
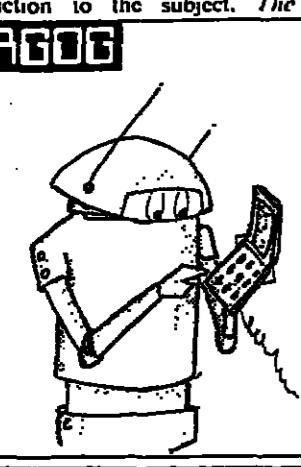
Samish, *Choosing a World Processor* (Granada, £6.95). He sets out to identify the needs of the small business, should it opt for a dedicated WP or look at a micro based system? After savoring the facts in the book, the prospective buyer should be able to make a reasoned appraisal of competing systems. Do not be put off by the lifeless graphics used as illustrations; the book is a valuable source of information on this frequently misunderstood subject.

For a business micro, this topic is covered in a book by Francis

A name synonymous with word processing is Word Star, the most used WP program, and in a new book, *WordStar Prompt* (Granada, £5.95). Its purpose is to save the new user from hours of reading hefty manuals, and by taking the basic section at the front of the book, the user is able to commence using WordStar at a low, but adequate level, leaving the more advanced functions, such as merging, editing and other text commands as an optional second section.

After WP, the next most popular application must be use of a data base, and a specific package, dBase II, is covered in a new book, *Working with dBase II* (Granada, £7.95) by M. de Pace. The reader is led through three levels of use, with the first section covering only 25 commands, but even at this level it is possible to create a data base, enter information, and produce formatted reports.

So long as user documentation remains incomprehensible, there will be ready market for this sort of book, which allow almost instant use of a sophisticated system, albeit at a low level.



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كما يحصل

Will an electronic filing system put me in the out tray?

As a professional writer my prime need is for word processing capability, but I am also attracted to having some general computing support. Where can I obtain sensible advice?

● One way of studying your needs is for you to rent equipment, for say two weeks at a time, so obtaining a feel for common offerings of both hardware and software, or attend an introductory course for a leading computing package, such as Wordstar.

Books on the subject tend to be incomplete because of the continual stream of new software packages. If your budget is limited then your options can be narrowed down to a complete system for about £1,500. At this figure many of the word processing tools are aimed at occasional users while there are a few that almost fit professional use.

If you need to hand material on diskettes to typewriting systems you are probably limited to two or three software packages and certain hardware combinations, such as an Apple set-up or an IBM personal computer.

Are spreadsheets as useful as salespeople claim? As there are some that are thrown in "free" with hardware I wonder whether these are any good.

● Spreadsheets are useful for making projections to data. The obvious example is a cash flow projection, but the data does not have to be about money, all kinds of plan can be examined

In this week's Work Shop we look at how useful spreadsheets are, getting advice, electronic filing systems and connecting micros to the telex network. Hedley Woysey will answer questions in this column on any aspect of computers in business or personal use. Write to Workshop, Computer Horizons, The Times, PO Box 7, 200 Gray's Inn Road, London WC1X 8EZ.

via software pretending to be a manual spreadsheet linked to an instant calculator able to produce new rows, or new columns of data to compare with some starting set.

The superior spreadsheets can display data graphically, usually through a separate piece of software with which it is easy to link in. Of course, the original data has to come from somewhere so extra software is needed to extract useful material from, say, accounts files held in your computer set-up. Improved ways of gathering data are beginning to appear. If you have to enter your data from scratch you will find this a chore. You can attend one-day seminars which help you to judge the value of spreadsheets.

I am shortly to be expected to use an electronic filing system in my work. Will it mean a great change in the way that things work around here?

● It depends a lot on how disciplined your working style is. Many of the computer-based systems for office work demand that you classify memorandums so that they know when a "formal" process is being started up. This can lead to some difficulties later when you

WORKSHOP

The advantages of hooking our microcomputer into the international telex network seem clear enough. Are there any snags?

● Presumably you are looking at the Cable and Wireless "easylink" service. The supplier will advise you on the best ways of ensuring confidentiality for your message.

There is then the matter of the legal status of these messages. It is best to agree with any

overseas entities about the steps which constitute a contract before any differences appear at the strictly legal level. The laws of many countries admit to a telex message being a binding agreement which is not generally the case under the law in this country.

It is not likely that there will be any legal snags if there is a prior agreement as to the steps involved in securing a contract or formal understanding. However, it is also best to agree on a simple source of arbitration should a dispute arise as to the nature of a business agreement.

While taking advice about a proposed computer system the provision of a "back-up" device is mentioned. Is this adequate?

● File storage which consists of sealed magnetic disk units is conventionally protected against loss of data by periodic dumping of data to a magnetic tape unit.

Such hardware steps to "back-up" records of transactions are the basic first steps in keeping your business records intact. However, you should establish a full procedure for recovering from an incident involving the use of the back-up unit.

After securing such a recovery procedure you should then make sure that a practice session takes place at regular intervals. Do not wait until the real disaster happens before finding out just how easy, or difficult, the recovery game can

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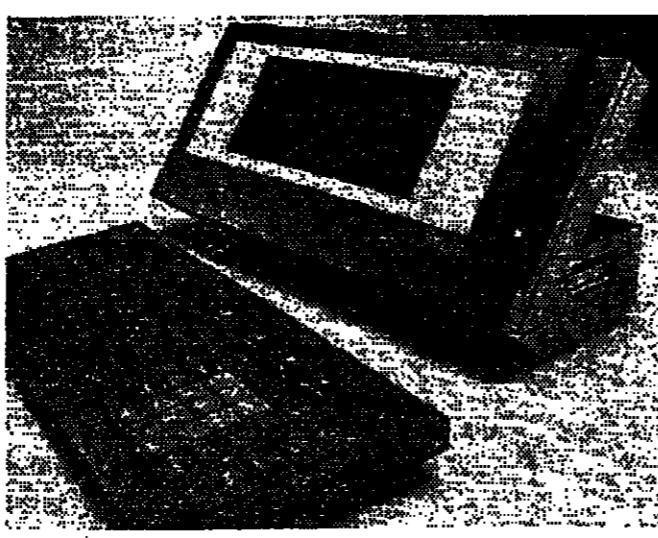
Innovations by ACT hope to pip all rivals

By Maggie McLening

British manufacturer Applied Computer Techniques, ACT, is hoping to destroy IBM's chances of domination in the UK microcomputer market with some new versions of the Apricot, all of which are claimed to run faster, have greater memory, and include more innovative features than their IBM or Apple rivals. All use infra-red technology to support a cordless keyboard and (optional) mouse. ACT, which has achieved considerable success with the Sirius and original Apricot model, also hopes to hit IBM where it hurts most - in corporate sales - by introducing an Apricot local area network capable of linking with IBM equipment thus exploiting the delay of IBM's own network.

Built-in screen

These revelations were made at the Albert Hall at a launch modestly described by ACT as "the most remarkable event in the history of the British micro industry last week". Ned Sherrin and Ronnie Corbett appeared in a starry razzmatazz. The birth of an Apricot Portable in the strains of Bach's Toccata in D Minor was only narrowly dwarfed by the finale, in which



ACT's Apricot Portable 16-bit business microcomputer

Priced at £795, the FIE is the cheapest and comes with 128K of RAM, although, like its BBC rival, it can be upgraded to a business machine using the newly-introduced Apricot Expansion Box. Colour is standard, and the FIE has the same 92-key (of which 10 are programmable function keys) infra-red keyboard, as the F1 and the Portable.

The F1 has a minimum of 256K main memory as standard, expandable to 768K, with the double-sided disc drive providing a further 720K of storage. Like Apple's Lisa and Macintosh, Apricot's new siblings have screen icons and windows, with the addition of hard scrolling. This means that, for example, the contents of the windows can move in different directions simultaneously, scrolling vertically, horizontally, or even rotating through 360 degrees.

The Portable, which has a flat, liquid crystal display screen, can be used for high resolution graphics when connected to a suitable monitor, and its built-in screen is more sophisticated than most currently available. Built by Hitachi,

the LCD screen is full size, holding an 80 column by 25 line display, and has a customized chip to make it refresh more quickly.

One feature of the £1,695 Portable is its specially-designed speech recognition chip, offering a vocabulary of up to 4,000 words, of which 64 can be in use at any one time. Although the selection of applications software capable of exploiting this is limited at the moment, the Portable can be expanded through a tiny 4inch by 1½ inch 10-Megabyte Winchester disc, which fits into the carrying case.

ACT plans to start deliveries in September. All of the equipment will be manufactured in the company's Glenrothes factory.

Franklin hits serious financial trouble

■ The Franklin Computer Corporation, the only major manufacturer of a personal computer designed to be compatible with Apple computers has filed for reorganization under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Act.

In a statement, the company attributed its financial troubles to declining sales resulting from the general malaise in the computer industry, as well as its extended copyright litigation with Apple. Franklin also said it had trouble obtaining parts for its CX line of portable computers, which is due out in September.

Franklin is the first major manufacturer of a compatible system to file for reorganization, but analysts have predicted several such failures by the end of the year among the many companies that make IBM compatibles.

Chapter 11 proceedings are meant to protect a company from its creditors while it seeks to reorganize. Last January, Franklin agreed to pay Apple 2.5 million in damages and to stop marketing an operating system that was a copy of Apples design.

Macintosh arrival

■ Apple is claiming sales of 2,500 Macintosh computers since it started shipping the micro to customers in the first week of June. An Apple spokesman said although the first few hundred Macintoshes shipped to dealers were actually American machines with external UK power converters, the company has been shipping its tailor-made

UK machines since the middle of June.

He said it can still take upwards of a week to get a Macintosh, but blamed any such delays on the level of demand for the machines and not on any inability by Apple to produce them fast enough.

COMPUTER BRIEFING

Hongkong for £6.50

■ Electronic mail is now cheaper than postage for medium and large organizations, and is much more versatile, according to Geisco, the international computer systems and consultancy company.

The company which, with more than 40,000 mailboxes used by 500 corporations, is believed to be the world's largest supplier of international electronic mailboxes, has halved the cost of using them, and simplified its method of charging for national and international mailings.

As result, to send a 10-page document to Hongkong, for example, costs £6.50 and takes less than 10 minutes. A 25-line memo to 40 managers throughout the world can be sent in a few minutes for less than £14.

BBC Model A to go

■ Acorn has at last announced a date for the withdrawal of their

BBC Model A micro, which, with the more expensive Model B, has sold more than 300,000 units since their launch in 1982.

From September the "A" will no longer be sold, Acorn putting all their efforts into the more powerful Model B and Electron production.

Ironically, it was the Electron shortfall last Christmas that extended the life of the "A" - many buyers transferring their orders to that machine because of non-availability of the Electron.

It is generally considered that the price of the Model B, still at £399, is too expensive given the current competition in the market especially Sinclair's £240 QL micro.

Acorn's response, for July at least, is to offer a data recorder and five programs free with every BBC B micro purchased.

Spectrum of Logo

■ Sinclair has just released the educational language Logo for its Spectrum computer. This package for younger children complements Sinclair's earlier release of micro-Prolog, a so-called fifth generation language.

Both are heavily biased towards computer-aided education, with Logo having gained immense popularity in American schools, and micro-Prolog being renowned for its artificial intelligence capabilities.

Logo has been promised from both Sinclair and Acorn for some time now, and Sinclair's lead in this

can only serve to enhance its educational reputation.

Logo includes a turtle concept in which young children can learn relational principles in a context which they can understand.

Spectrum Logo supports both screen and floorbound mechanical turtles.

The package is supplied on cassette with two manuals and costs £24.95.

£3M display

■ The Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) is to spend £3m on a raster graphics display system. It will use 150 terminals to let control engineers view and zoom in on schematic representations of the electricity network and will largely replace the traditional wall mimic diagrams currently used.

Contributors: Frank Brown, Adam Denning, Geoffrey Ellis, Matthew May, Geoff Wheelwright.

Given that computers can handle vast amounts of data, and the tendency towards mainframe-itis, there is an important role coming up for what might be termed "data interpreters".

One of the best analogies for this role is that of journalist who accumulates, receives or has thrust upon them an enormous amount of information of all types. At its simplest, a journalist may have much information on the state of left-wing politics in Central America which will have no relevance to an article on

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THE TIMES

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

Lawson denies companies will pay more in tax

The Chancellor of the Exchequer hit back strongly last night at suggestions that his Budget proposals contained anything but good for the corporate sector. At the same time he reaffirmed his commitment to fighting inflation rates.

The Institute of Fiscal Studies suggested recently that Mr Lawson's corporation tax reforms, which include phasing out capital allowance while reducing the rate of corporation tax, would impose a higher tax burden on the corporate sector.

Speaking at an IFS dinner, the Chancellor flatly contradicted the IFS claim. He reckoned that the cost to the Exchequer during 1984/85 (or putting it another way, the benefit to business) of his proposals would be £280m. During the whole transitional period, to 1988, the changes should have a broadly neutral effect and, when the changes had worked through fully, business would enjoy substantial cuts in tax payments.

The Chancellor attacked the IFS assumptions on two counts: first that its sample of companies was unrepresentative, and secondly, that its inflation figures were far too pessimistic. He specifically rejected the IFS forecast of a rise in inflation to 7.5 per cent.

The Government's estimates, he said, reflected his determination to carry on reducing inflation from its current level of five per cent.

The Chancellor went on to mar his case a little by harking back to the Medium Term Financial Strategy. The longer the miners' dispute drags on, the more disenchanted the City is likely to become with Treasury inflation numbers, especially if sterling continues to crumble. But support for the Chancellor's taxation system existing in the shape of first quarter appropriation account figures for the industrial sector. On the one hand, the figures reveal a very sharp jump in first quarter total company income to £1.6 billion from a comparable £1.3 billion in 1983 - a 20 per cent increase broadly in line with the increase for 1983 as a whole.

North Sea oil companies showed a 15 per cent gain in gross trading profits at £4.1 billion. Other companies with profits just over £8 billion, had a growth rate of 25 per cent. Even if the Chancellor is wrong about the corporate tax burden, the industrial sector is in good shape.

The tax burden, however, may already be growing less. First quarter tax payments totalled £2.6 billion or roughly 16 per cent of total income compared with 20 per cent in 1983. Timing differences may well account at this stage for the slowdown, but if the Treasury is right, the trend will continue.

Of even greater interest to the City may be the way companies are allocating their income at tax rates. Dividends, for example, in the first quarter jumped by 60 per cent from £842m to £1.3 billion. Admittedly, the 1983 figure was freakishly low, but it looks as if a major priority for business is to raise dividends.

Useful jolts for the Eurobond market

Last week was nerve-racking for the Eurobond market. First there was the decision by the US Congress to remove the 30 per cent withholding tax on interest payments to foreigners. Then came revelations of extensive fraud among bond traders in Europe. If competition from the United States did not kill the market, perhaps the European regulator would.

Both developments are serious, but neither is fatal. On the contrary, this could be the beginning of a shake-up which the Eurobond market, particularly the bond purchasers and holders, has needed for

Merchant banks drag their feet

The remarkable unity which merchant banks displayed in their year-long rearguard action against Substantial Acquisition Rule 11 has not extended to complying promptly with it. There was surprise yesterday, not least among merchant banks, the Accepting Houses Committee and the Takeover Panel, that only Robert Fleming and Warburg Investment Management were able to produce disclosure lists the day the new rule became operational.

SAR 11 requires the merchant banks to disclose aggregate holdings in companies of more than 15 per cent. For the first time the large hidden holdings merchant banks have through their discretionary investment funds will be revealed. They are likely to include 50 or 60 big blocks. The Takeover Panel, taken aback by the tardy response, said it would not be castigating anyone - yet. Prolonged delays and the Panel will want to know why.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Consumer borrowing soars

New consumer credit advanced in May by £1.6 billion, houses, retailers and others hit a monthly record of £1.031m, seasonally adjusted, the Department of Trade and Industry said. This compared with new consumer loans of £914m in April and leaves the total outstanding at £15.481m - 23 per cent more than a year ago.

The May rise was widespread and included a near-doubling to £24m in home improvement loans, ahead of the June 1 deadline for imposition of VAT. Final May retail sales figures show that business in the shops slipped back less than initially thought. The index of sales volume fell 1.3 per cent to 110.7 (1980=100), compared with the provisional estimate of 1.7 per cent fall.

In the three months to May sales were still 0.75 per cent above the preceding quarter and more than 3 per cent up on the same period a year ago.

• MERCURY SECURITIES, the holding company which includes merchant bank S. G. Warburg, has increased after-tax profit for the year to March 31 to £21.3m, up from £17.3m. The dividend of 11.5p is up from 9.5p last year.

Tempus, page 22

• WARD & GOLDSTONE, the electrical accessories manufacturer, announced taxable profits in the year to March of £2.9m, against just £6.7m previously. The total dividend was increased to 5p net compared with 2p net.

Tempus, page 22

Norcros still looking for UBM

By Ian Griffiths

Norcros, the construction group, is prepared to mount another takeover bid for UBM, the building merchants.

A similar attempt last year failed, leaving Norcros with a 36.3 per cent holding in UBM which cost £27m. The company must wait until October before the bid can be renewed.

In his statement to shareholders, Mr Ken Roberts, the chairman of Norcros, says:

"Our opinion that the two

companies together would be a powerful force in the construction and building supplies arena is in no way lessened".

His view was supported by Mr David Smith, Norcros' financial director, who said: "We would like UBM to be in the group. The combination would provide a sounder organization and UBM's position would be better in an enlarged group."

He added, however, that

"Norcros was not prepared to

pay an excessive price to gain control. A new offer would be a fair reflection of UBM's trading position reported yesterday that it had increased pretax profits for the year to March 31 to £32m up from £28.3m. This exceeds the profit forecast made at the time of the last bid.

Turnover fell from £355.5m to £348.6m. A final dividend of 5.2p makes 7.5p for the year, against 6.32p last time.

Tempus, page 22

Below-average growth predicted

Britain faces energy slowdown

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The slowing growth rate of Western Europe's energy needs will continue until after the end of the century, with demand in Britain not reaching its 1979 peak again until the year 2005, it was predicted yesterday.

Figures issued by DRI Europe, the international business consultants, show the average rate of energy consumption growth in Europe until 2005 will be 1.2 per cent. But the figures for Britain forecast only 0.4 per cent.

Below-average economic growth is one of the main reasons for Britain's predicted sluggish demand, says DRI,

which suggests GDP will rise by 1.9 per cent and industrial production by 1.8 per cent.

The effect of this alone would be to reduce British demand by 0.5 per cent less than the European average.

Secondly, says DRI, energy demand in Britain will decline because of an industrial

shift from iron, steel and chemicals into lighter industry and service industries. A slow increase in the number of new homes and saturation of existing space heating and transport will hardly affect demand, but more efficient insulation and industrial processes will.

The use of oil as a primary energy source in Europe as a whole is expected to fall by more than 40 per cent between 1983 and 2005. Oil will, however, remain the most important fuel with a market share 15 per cent higher than the second-placed coal.

"Nuclear power will be the main gains," says the report, with a slight rise of energy consumption forecast to more than double between 1983 and 2000, to reach 17 per cent. Its contribution in primary terms is expected to exceed that of natural gas in the later 1990s."

Both Britain and Belgium may however, be unwilling to increase uptake of French electricity because of political restraints on the closure of coal-fired stations and coal-producing capacity.

"The percentage share of

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Ports disruption threatened by change to VAT-in-advance

By John Lawless

British trade specialists are expecting an exceptionally large rise in imports in September as compensation rises to beat a costly change in VAT payments on EEC goods.

The resulting congestion at ports could last at least two months, delaying exports from Britain for the crucial EEC Christmas market.

The American decision to drop the withholding tax and to allow bearer bonds - albeit in a form yet to be defined, is just another step towards the creation of a unified, global securities market. Euro-bond traders, who built their business partly on a tax anomaly, cannot justifiably complain it is an impediment to a free market. It is not as though Euro-bond traders and issuers are defenceless. Whatever the final rules on bearer instruments decided by the US Treasury, the benefits to the Belgian dentist of doing business through Switzerland or Luxembourg or any other place well away from the US Securities and Exchange Commission are not diminished.

The European end of the Eurobond market is now a mature business with some structural advantages over New York. It is in the central time zone, has plenty of capital; the market can handle smaller parcels of securities than New York; and the European issuing houses have considerable power. Talk of their refusing to take American business is not entirely absurd.

Fraud is another matter, but the question of regulation cannot be tackled as it would be in a national stock market. The Eurobond market absorbed \$50,000m in new issues last year. It belongs elsewhere, and the security of the leader rests on the credit-worthiness of the borrower rather than the place through which the securities are sold. Regulation in the narrow sense is therefore impractical. It is noticeable that the latest frauds were committed by professionals against professionals.

The regulatory argument should be about "transparency". As Professor Laurence Gower has pointed out, more and more frequent price and volume information would help to deter fraud. Even more important, it might give governments and international agencies more clues as to the macroeconomic effects of this huge, volatile and expanding pool of capital. More information need not be incompatible with more competition, and bond traders should welcome both.

This had now been substantially completed and the departmentalized to begin approving applications from today.

The number of loans granted under the scheme is expected to be more than half the level of around 400 a month it had been running at before the changes were introduced. Some banks have criticized the revised scheme for being too costly for most small businesses.

At the end of May, the Government cut its guarantee on loans from 80 per cent to 70 per cent, leaving the banks with an increased risk of 30 per cent. It also increased the premium that borrowers pay in excess of current borrowing levels from 3 per cent to 5 per cent.

The changes were designed to reduce public spending on the scheme which, the Treasury contended, had reached an unacceptably high level after receiving a critical report of the scheme's record from accountants Robson Rhodes.

This report calculated that the annual cost could be as high as £25m and said that the failure rate among businesses using the scheme could be one in three.

But critics of the Government's alterations have claimed that the original scheme was given insufficient time to settle in and that experience of similar arrangements in the Netherlands showed that costs reduced considerably after the first year as banks grew more experienced in vetting applications.

To all Ordinary Shareholders of Enterprise Oil plc ("Enterprise Oil"), In this announcement "Ordinary Shareholders" means holders of Letters of Acceptance to the Offer for Sale of Ordinary Shares of 25p each of Enterprise Oil and references to the purchase or sale of Ordinary Shares shall be construed accordingly.

THIS ANNOUNCEMENT IS IMPORTANT AND REQUIRES YOUR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION. IF YOU ARE IN ANY DOUBT ABOUT THIS OFFER, PLEASE CONSULT YOUR STOCKBROKER, BANK MANAGER, SOLICITOR, ACCOUNTANT OR OTHER PROFESSIONAL ADVISERS IMMEDIATELY.

Hoare Govett Limited, acting on behalf of RTZ, offer to purchase by tender a maximum of 32,000,000 Ordinary Shares of 25p each (the stated maximum) representing 15.1 per cent. of the total issued ordinary share capital of Enterprise Oil on The Stock Exchange on the following terms-

1. The maximum price per share shall be 110p. All tenders must be expressed in whole pence per share.

2. Unless tenders in respect of at least an aggregate of 10,600,000 Ordinary Shares (5 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital) are received, the offer shall be void.

3. Subject to the provisions of paragraph 2 above, all tenders will be invocable.

4. The Tender Offer will close at 3.30 pm on Tuesday, 10th July, 1984.

5. Where a tender is accepted and results in a sale, settlement will be effected between the Stock Exchange and the holder on Thursday, 12th July, 1984.

6. RTZ will assume the obligation under the terms of the Offer for Sale of Enterprise Oil dated 18th June, 1984 ("the Offer for Sale") to pay the second instalment of 85p per share in respect of shares purchased. Save for this obligation, the shares will be acquired free from all fees, charges and expenses and with all rights annexed thereto including the right to receive all dividends and other distributions declared, made or paid hereunder.

7. RTZ already holds 31,123,170 Ordinary Shares of Enterprise Oil (approximately 14.7 per cent.) and will hold 29.5 per cent. if they receive the maximum amount of shares now being offered for.

If the number of shares tendered for sale is above the stated maximum, the striking price will be the lowest price at which the number of shares offered for tender at or below the striking price will receive that price. If necessary, tenders made at the striking price will be scaled down pro rata or baulked. If the number of shares tendered is less than the stated maximum, tendering shareholders will receive the maximum price of 110p, subject to paragraph 2 above.

WARNING: NO SHARES TENDERED ABOVE THE STRIKING PRICE WILL BE ACCEPTED. SHAREHOLDERS WISHING TO SELL THEIR SHARES UNDER THIS OFFER SHOULD BE AWARE THAT IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THE STRIKING PRICE COULD BE BELOW THE MAXIMUM PRICE.

The maximum price being offered compares with the first instalment of 100p paid under the terms of the Offer for Sale.

Procedure for Tendering:

Ordinary shareholders of Enterprise Oil who wish to tender all or some of their shares under this offer at the maximum price or a lower price can do so by contacting their stockbroker or other professional adviser. Instructions can be given to stockbrokers by any means desired. Tenders will be held by The Stock Exchange until the offer closes at 3.30 pm on 10th July, 1984.

Tenders by Stockbrokers on behalf of clients and tenders by Jobbers must be in sealed envelopes and lodged in accordance with requirements of The Rules and Regulations of The Stock Exchange.

Further Information of RTZ:

RTZ recognises the desire of The Secretary of State for Energy that Enterprise Oil should remain an independent company at this stage of its development. In the event of this Tender Offer succeeding in full, RTZ does not intend to acquire any further Ordinary Share in Enterprise Oil in the foreseeable future so as to increase its percentage interest to more than 29.5 per cent. of the issued ordinary share capital for the time being of Enterprise Oil.



Peter Rees: Irony for Dover MP

ironic that Mr Peter Rees is Chief Secretary to the Treasury.

He was promoted to that position from Trade Minister, where he could have been expected to argue against the PAS facility being scrapped and represents Dover, the port which is certain to beat the port of congregation.

Mr Jonathan Slaggett, chief executive of the Dover Harbour Board, said yesterday that a £10m land reclamation scheme to provide 10 acres of more space was being hurried through to meet the expected build-up of waiting traffic in September.

He also believes he may have to advance another reclamation scheme. "At the moment," he said, "we have 700,000 road haulage vehicles a year going both ways."

He sympathized with the idea of removing a cost discrimination against British manufacturers - with importers getting a price competitive edge of 25p in every £100-worth of goods because of delayed VAT payments - "but what is taking its place is an extremely expensive and inefficient system to collect it."

Shipping specialists insist

Pound falls ½ cent

The pound closed half a cent down against the dollar yesterday at \$1.3515 but comfortably above its day's low after light profit-taking trimmed the dollar's gains.

The pound's trade-weighted value eased 0.1 to 79.0. The dollar closed in London nearly one pence up at DM2.7910, supported by the prospect of higher US interest rates and further reports of attacks in the Gulf.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FTSE 100 Index 1047.6 up 6.2

High: 1047.6, low 1041.3

FT Index: 822.1 up 4.2

Bargains: 18,389

Datstream USM Leaders Index: 100.63 down 0.15

New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest) 1,128.31 down 4.08

London Nikkei Dow Jones Index 1041.07 down 17.56

STOCK MARKET REPORT

Brewers and insurers advance

By Wayne Lintott and Derek Pain

Beers and insurances – and, of course, Enterprise Oil – provided much of the action on a sleepy stock market yesterday. For a variety of reasons this unlikely combination prevented the new account dying from inactivity on its opening day.

As the market turned in another indecisive performance, still troubled by US interest rates, Third World debt problems and the escalating cost of the miners' strike, beers babbled merrily on a sharp May production increase and insurances were helped by better-than-expected new business figures.

Enterprise Oil, the latest Whitehall privatization, opened in the partly paid form at 98p, went to 101p and then settled at 100p as Rio Tinto-Zinc moved towards 29.9 per cent.

The May beer production strengthened the view of many analysts that the sector is undervalued. The month's output was 21.1 per cent higher than the admittedly depressed figure for May last year. But, more significantly, the January-May production level is 5.3 per cent ahead of the first five months of last year.

Breweries have been busily streamlining their operations since production peaked in 1979 and any consumption increases should flow impressively through to profits. Already the present brewery profits season has demonstrated

rising tide of beer profits with, for example, the Bass brewing group achieving a 35 per cent interim rise.

Today, the rapidly reviving Scottish and Newcastle Breweries is expected to continue the momentum with profits of at least £55m for the year against £41.1m.

S & N shares climbed 1½p to 129½p – the best for more than a decade – and others higher included Allied-Lyons, Bass and Whitbread. Arthur Guinness rose 1p to 153p.

Shares of William Leech, the builder, gained 1p to 147p as H. Beazer pondered whether to increase its £16m (123p-a-share) offer. The Beazer camp has held talks with the William Leech Foundation, which holds 29.7 per cent, to discover what price it would accept. Beazer, unchanged at 342p, already has 12.8 per cent of Leech.

following the strong denial of the reported bid for Greene King, which was unchanged at 172p. The company recently announced full-year profits of £8.75m, up from £8m the year before.

The good figures for new business from the powerful Prudential Corporation helped to create renewed confidence in insurances. Demand was somewhat thin due to a shortage of stock but good gains of up to

14p were well spread throughout the list.

Prudential, up 7p to 450p, proved that there is life after the Budget, at least in the sense that the abolished tax allowances have not hit new business that hard. News from America that the British insurance companies are finally getting tough with the independent agencies which have cost them dearly for several years, also created demand for the composites.

Britannic climbed 7p to 458p and Hamro Life jumped 10p to 378p. Buyers in Hamro were attracted by the much improved yield. Legal and General, similarly, firmed 14p to 445p. Among the composites, gains were far smaller but were evenly spread.

Commercial Union rose 4p to 215p, General Accident 7p to 476p and Royal 7p to 468p.

Among the brokers C. E. Heath

gained 10p to 448p and Willis

Faber 7p to 349p.

Banking shares had a much quieter time after the volatile ride of last week. Midland was 29.7p, NatWest firmed 8p to 592p while Barclays firmed 3p to 462p.

On the USM, Freshbake Foods sought a temporary suspension, when the shares were 91p, prior to what the company termed a sizable acquisition. Freshbake hoped to make a full announcement soon and an explanatory circular is on its way to shareholders.

Applied Holographics was again a feature, dropping 5p below the issue price at 175p, down 3p on the day. The shares were issued by Laing and Crickshank last week and the issue attracted criticism for being too highly priced and for Laing becoming a net seller when the price soared to 230p.

Among the main list, Vesper was hit by profit-taking, falling 14p to 200p after having firmed last week on hopes for a satisfactory conclusion to its longstanding compensation dispute with the Government.

Shares of Rowton Hotels rose 2p to 280p yesterday although Belhaven Brewery has cut its share stake to below 5 per cent and has apparently broken off negotiations to buy the 24.7 per cent Rowton shareholding owned by the Gresham House investment group. Rowton's board is currently split, with the two Gresham representatives lined up against the other directors.

Speculative demand put 8p onto Spear and Jackson at 168p and 15p onto Ferranti at 664p. The market feels that with GEC talking with British Aerospace, Plessey may decide to consolidate its position in the industry and provide itself with a competitive buffer to GEC by making a takeover bid for Ferranti.

British Electric Traction was unchanged at 241p. It faces the biggest remaining hurdle in its attempt to buy the 60 per cent stake in Inital which it does not already hold when it presents its case to the Office of Fair Trading later this week.

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Similarly, Coats Patons is said to be casting an acquisitive eye over Aquascutum, up 15p to 75p.

Government stocks were again weak, slipping up to 5½% in general trading.

English China Clays edged ahead 6p to 215p on the £42.8m sale of its IDF International office to the American Diversified Fibres group.

IDF had intended to develop IDF in partnership with the US group but it was eventually decided that a full sale would be the best option.

BT came in for after-hours support, gaining 11p to 447p, but Vickers' gain was clipped to 4p at 172p in late trading.

Polymer was weak but Invest Energy jumped 22p to 363p on exploration hopes. Rugby Portland Cement edged ahead 1p, on suggestions that Hanson Trust was building up a stake. Davy Corporation firmed 4p to 59p. Its results are due later this month.

Plessey gained 2p to 318p. London casino "dropped" were up 30 per cent in the three months to February.

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This was most marked in the ceramics division in which margins improved by 5 per cent to 13.3 per cent.

The international division, however, had a very poor year with operating profits down by 40 per cent to £5m, largely because of huge cutbacks in the Nigerian subsidiary's trading. At least Norcros is getting its dividends back and trading should pick up in the current year.

The shares, unchanged at 153p yesterday, still offer good value despite uncertainties over the UBM stake.

Mercury Securities

City mutterings that S. G. Warburg showed a fall from grace over the Reuters/Eurodries imbroglio were firmly countered yesterday, as Mercury Securities, the holding

Norcros knows it must do something about its uncomfortable 36.3 per cent holding in UBM, the legacy of a failed takeover bid last year.

The chairman may claim the investment looks after itself financially, but he can hardly be content with a net p/l return on £27m for too much longer.

A renewed bid can be expected in October, but only at a "sensible" price. Norcros has decided to treat UBM as a trade investment rather than an associate company, which strengthens the likelihood of a bid. If the attempt fails, however, Norcros will have to sell and take what capital gain it can.

The figures suggest the group is well placed to cope with the fragmentation of modernized financial structures. The merchant banking profits rise of £3m disguises a prior transfer to reserves of profits on disposal of the old head office lease.

Loan exposure to the Third

World is negligible. Conservative accounting techniques have coped adequately with the tax changes to leasing business.

With all divisions, including newcomers Akroyd and Smithers, firing well, Mercury has stepped like a gazelle through all the recent blackspots, and can therefore reaffirm its commitment to conservatism.

company housing the merchant bank, unveiled full year figures.

According to the board merchant banking is losing the smooth certainties of the Fifties, as the homogeneity of markets falls apart; easy profits and decisions belong to the past. Didn't the bank do well, then?

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The cost of the thwarted takeover added more than £18m to the group's borrowings last year, which sent gross gearing soaring from 30.6 per cent to 45.4 per cent. Although this may not inhibit the ability to finance operational needs it may be a problem if some other acquisition is contemplated.

The UBM episode apart, it was not a bad year for Norcros. Pretax profits improved to £33m on group sales which fell £1m to £327m. The improvement came on margins which at the operating level increased from 9 per cent to 10.4 per cent to £2.9m.

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Gearing came down from 92 per cent to 54 per cent and will fall further after the completion of the sale of the Salplus division to a management consortium for £1.1m.

The dividend too is being restored to something approaching former levels – compounding the impression that the group has put the problems of the past well behind it.

The question now is whether the group can build on its recovery. The answer appears

to be affirmative. Volume sales should once again achieve a double figure gain this year, despite the slowdown in building activity which is bound to have some impact on the main accessories business.

The group's moulded-on plug business, in which it leads the market, is showing huge promise and its products were recently specified for all the light fittings sold through Marks and Spencer.

The communications cables division completed the move to its new factory earlier this year with a minimum of disruption and automotive wiring is finding new outlets for its products while achieving breakthroughs in traditional markets. It recently won the contract – worth £3m initially – for wiring the new XJ40 Jaguar car.

The shares – up 7p to 115p, yesterday – have a good run over the past six months but with profits of around £4m in prospect this year, the rating is still undemanding.

Ward & Goldstone

Ward & Goldstone, the electrical accessories group, yesterday set the seal on a year of management and structural change with news of full year pretax profits up from £67.000 to £6.700.

The elimination of losses in the cables division, which was closed and provided for last year, accounts for a fair chunk of the leap but there was also solid underlying improvement in the profits of the rest of the group where volume sales are said to have grown by around 14 per cent.

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TEMPUS

UBM £27m nest egg puts a cash drag on Norcros

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Bid prospects and the group's high-tech joint venture with GEC – it is developing a control system likely to be tested on 1,000 BL cars next year – are in for nothing. The shares yield 6.2 per cent.

GILTS

Gilts made a wet start to July, sagging ¼ point in shorts and nearly ½ points in longs, as sterling ploughed ever onwards and downwards during the morning. For bulls, this is the time to buy, as yields at the short end approach 12 per cent, the point at which recently the market has always bounced.

However, it is hard to find a good news trigger for the rally. Attention is starting to focus on next week's money supply figures for banking June, and there are unsubstantiated reports of a rise in Sterling M3 of more than 1½ per cent.

Optimism about a bank lending slowdown is mitigated by fears that the two large gilt redemptions, totalling more than £2 billion, which fell into banking June, will not have been offset by the Government Broker's funding efforts.

Russian energy drive may help British industry

By David Young

Energy Correspondent
The Soviet Union's desire to develop its massive reserves of natural gas, coal and lignite could lead to further business for Britain's turbine makers, according to research carried out in the United States.

A report prepared by Planning Research and Consultants of the US says that over the next five years there will be continued demand from the Soviet Union for industrial turbines.

The report comes at a time when Russia is considering how to exploit its coal reserves to replace oil. It is working the development of transporting coal by pipeline, using compressor technology developed for the gas pipeline into Western Europe.

Two developments are now taking place. The liquefaction of brown coal reserves and the construction of the pilot project to pump hard coal as slurry through a pipeline which could eventually stretch 2,500 miles from Siberia to Moscow.

Against Continentals, the pound retreated, easing to 3,700 Deutschemarks from 3,770. Day-to-day credit conditions proved very difficult in the discount market.

The Bank of England started with a forecast of a £600m shortage, although this figure was later revised to about £550m.

Period rates firmed by between ½ and ¾ as the pound continued to come under pressure from a strong dollar. Dealers issued a fair amount of sterling certificates of deposit during the morning, with sellers at the short end reflecting the tight state of short-term money.

Interbank, overnight, reached 9 ½-¾ per cent during the morning, but eased later in the afternoon to close at about 8 per cent.

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Winter to head Royal Bank after merger

Mr Charles Winter is to become chief executive of The Royal Bank of Scotland group next year after the merger of its two subsidiaries, Royal Bank of Scotland and Williams & Glyn's, has been completed.

Mr Winter replaces Mr Sidney Proctor, who is retiring at the end of September 1985.

Mr Proctor was previously chief executive of the English subsidiary Williams & Glyn's. Mr Winter is chief executive of Scottish bank.

The merger of the two subsidiaries was announced last year and is due to take effect from October 1985, subject to the necessary legislation by Parliament.

The aim is to improve efficiency and save on costs. Traditionally, the two banks have operated independently and many functions have been duplicated.

The name of Williams & Glyn's will disappear after the merger and its branches will be known by the parent company's name.

A number of other appointments are also due to take effect in October 1985 including the appointment of Mr Henry Farley, a director of Williams & Glyn's, to the post of chief general manager.

In brief

• ALEXANDER RUSSELL has agreed to acquire the entire share capital of Springbank Sand and Gravel for an aggregate of £2.52m. Springbank operates four quarries in Central Scotland and produces high quality washed sand and gravel aggregates.

• THE ITM GROUP, ofshore fabrication and transportation specialists, has brought Head Wrightson, Cleveland, from the Davy Group. Davy

WALL STREET

Holiday week's slow start

Prices opened lower yesterday in active trading, with the Dow Jones industrial average, up 5.83 on Friday, down 0.66 to 1,131.73 shortly after the market opened.

Declines led advances by 462 to 378, and brokers were expecting a slow week — the market will be closed on Wednesday for Independence Day and the Treasury sale of \$3.5bn of seven-year notes today and \$4bn in 20-year bonds on Thursday, in its mini- refunding programme, will cause competition for stocks.

Mr Irwin Kellner, an economist with Manufacturers Hanover, said the economy was

not growing fast enough to rekindle inflation fires, nor slowing rapidly enough to produce a recession.

Mr Kellner said the recovery had been underway for 18 months and that consumer prices were up only about 5 per cent, compared with the 5.5 per cent average of the previous seven recoveries.

He added that although higher interest rates might be curtailing people's ability to buy houses, cars and other goods that required borrowed funds, their effect in slowing down the economy was being tempered by increased interest income.

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Bailey Morris reports on the West's new strategy to control runaway loans to the Third World

Clash looms over World Bank's new crisis role

Western governments are attempting to revise the roles of the international financial institutions in response to the current debt crisis in a highly controversial exercise which could erupt into a full scale battle by September.

The US and Europe are divided over proposals to increase the balance-of-payment lending role of the World Bank to help debt-burdened countries.

Third World governments are adamantly opposed to suggestions that the World Bank impose the same tough economic conditions on its long-term, low-interest loans that the International Monetary Fund attaches to its short-term assistance loans. There is strong opposition to proposals to strengthen the role of the IMF and its control over the domestic economic policies of debtor countries.

• MARLING INDUSTRIES: At the emergency general meeting on Friday, the disposal of the company's apparel fabric and industrial cloth weaving business was approved. Marling has received the cash consideration of £282,000. Terms have also been agreed for the sale of the company's non-woven textile interests. The two transactions will give Marling in excess of £1m in four months and a further £170,000 over the next four years.

• FITCH LOVELL has exchanged contracts for the acquisition of Truran & Tarr (Holdings). It accelerates Fitch's involvement in fast growing product areas. Truran is engaged in high quality cooked meats, vacuum packed sliced meats, recipe dishes and cold convenience foods and salads.

• NEWMAN-TONKS GROUP: Six months to April 30 (31-1-83). Interim dividend 1.65p (same). Figures in £000. Turnover 27,781 (24,443). Operating profit 2,044 (1,716). Interest 318 (349). Pretax profit 1,267 (1,367). Tax 643 (405). Minorities 11 (20). Extraordinary charges nil (6). Earnings per share 4.49p (4.03p). Share unchanged at 94p.

APPOINTMENTS:

Ford of Europe names chairman

Ford of Europe: Mr Robert A. Lutz, a Ford executive vice-president, is now Ford of Europe's chairman and chief executive officer. Mr L. Lindsey Halestead, a Ford vice-president, will head the new Asia-Pacific and Latin American automotive operations.

National Association of Master Masons: Mrs Moyra Harvey has been elected president.

Delhi Petroleum: Mr Fraser Ainsworth has been appointed managing director.

Phelan Lewis & Peat: Mr Michael D. Phelan has become chairman and chief executive and Mr Graham S. Hill is now a director.

Vain Pollen: Mr Neil Hedges and Mr Howard Lee have been appointed account directors. Mr Robert Mitcham becomes media director. All are currently associate directors of the company.

Burnett & Hallamshire Holdings: Mr Alan Dodd has joined the board as finance director with effect from August 1, 1984. Mr Dodd, currently the finance director of the company's mining division, has already assumed executive responsibilities for the position. Mr W. M. Oakley, previously finance director, has left the company and will resign as a director following the annual meeting on July 26.

The Ashdown Investment Trust: Mr James Nelson and Mr Richard Cheetham have become directors.

Marconi Avionics: Mr D. I. Jackson is now chief executive of the Borehamwood establishment.

Clydesdale Bank: Mr A. Richard Cole-Hamilton, chief general manager, has been appointed to the board.

The Salvage Association: Mr Michael J. H. Marshall (Lloyd's) has succeeded Mr Eric Richardson (General Accident Group) as chairman. Mr G. H. Wright (Guardian Exchange Group) has been elected deputy chairman.

Hoover: Mr A. E. Williamson has become UK operations director.

Inver House Distillers: Three newcomers to the main board are Mr V. J. Lewis, marketing and sales director, Mr R. B. Boyle, operations manager, and Mr J. T. F. Cairns, financial controller.

Fosco Minsep: Mr R. E. Lambourne has been appointed group secretary.

Securicor: Mr James Foord, group business development executive, has been appointed marketing director.

Arson at sea 'on the increase'

By John Lawless

The sinking of cargo vessels by setting fire to them has become increasingly common way to collect large insurance payouts, says a report published yesterday.

The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) — a London-based organization financed by leading international trade bodies, including insurance companies, to track down transnational frauds — report that 46 per cent of total ship losses by tonnage and 30.5 per cent by numbers were caused by fire and explosion in 1982 (by latest figures).

It adds that the Liverpool Underwriters' Association has "recently reported little evidence of improvement in 1983", when 66 ships were lost, aggregating 637,340 gross tons.

The IMB report, *Fire at Sea - Accident or Arson?* says the marked increase of maritime casualties caused by fire, "at a time when the shipping market continues to languish in the

doldrums of world recession, does little to allay deep suspicions in many circles of the maritime industry that a significant number were caused deliberately".

It adds that deliberate sinking does not only appear to be "an expedient to stave off financial ruin", but there is also considerable evidence "that a significant band of criminal motivated entrepreneurs have derived vast financial gains from scuttling ships".

Arson has become "more and more into vogue" because fires are easy to contrive as accidents with minimal risk and crew involvement. When started in engine rooms and accommodation areas, the vessel can quickly become "a constructive total loss". It is generally thought that such incidents are deliberate, to prove as being deliberate.

It says that "courageous fires not infrequently take place when a vessel is close to shore or near to busy shipping lanes", where the chances of crew rescue are high.

Top ten debtors		
	Total external debt* \$ billion	State of play
1) Brazil	93	Implementing IMF programme with difficulty. Riots.
2) Mexico	89	Success story of IMF, yet to reach agreement with IMF but default stayed off.
3) Argentina	44	Still paying debts normally.
4) Korea	40	Trying to reschedule bank debts without IMF.
5) Venezuela	34	Still paying; tough measures at home. Moratorium on capital payments. IMF deal pending.
6) Indonesia	25	Rescheduling following new IMF austerity package.
7) Philippines	25	New IMF austerity deal. Previous deep slump. Riots.
8) Yugoslavia	20	Successful IMF-based adjustment to early.
9) Chile	18	Market estimates. Source: Amex Bank Review
10) Turkey	17	Successful IMF-based adjustment to early.

ever, that Argentina must take a political decision to agree to the IMF's economic austerity demands before September 30, when it faces its next crisis payment of \$900m to western banks.

Failure to reach agreement with the fund and thus negotiate new loans stretched out conditions with banks would be the "serious accident" all hope to avoid.

Should it occur, however, with the result that the earnings of big western banks are plunged into the red and the confidence of the public is shaken, there are contingency plans.

Although Treasury officials would not disclose these, they said the plans had been reached in cooperation with other western governments and would include, if necessary, massive support by the US government.

This is the worst-case scenario. More likely is an accommodation by the Argentine government, which will cave in to IMF's demands that it cuts dramatically its more than 400 per cent inflation rate.

Even with an Argentina agreement, western officials fear that Third World debt problems may become unmanageable given the expected additional increases in US interest rates which could rise to up to 15 per cent by the end of the year.

This explains the new sense of urgency in rewriting the roles of the bank and the fund and the growing popularity of proposals to cap interest rates or negotiate some form of sliding rates similar to the variable mortgage rates negotiated by banks with US home owners.

The most frequently discussed proposals to enhance the role of the World Bank are:

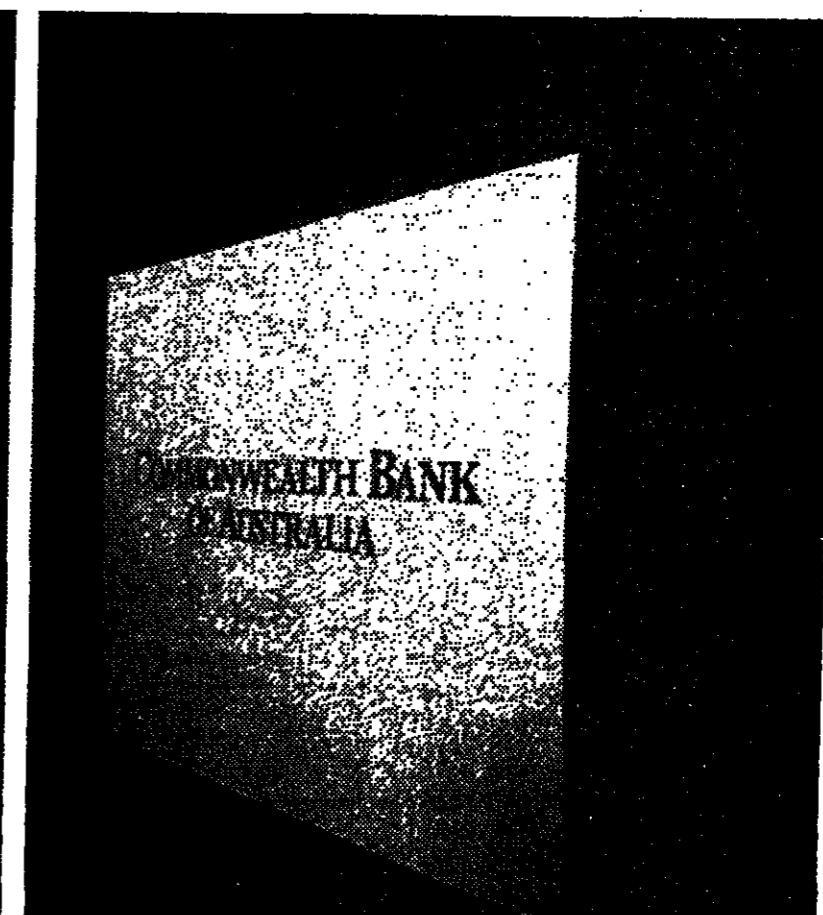
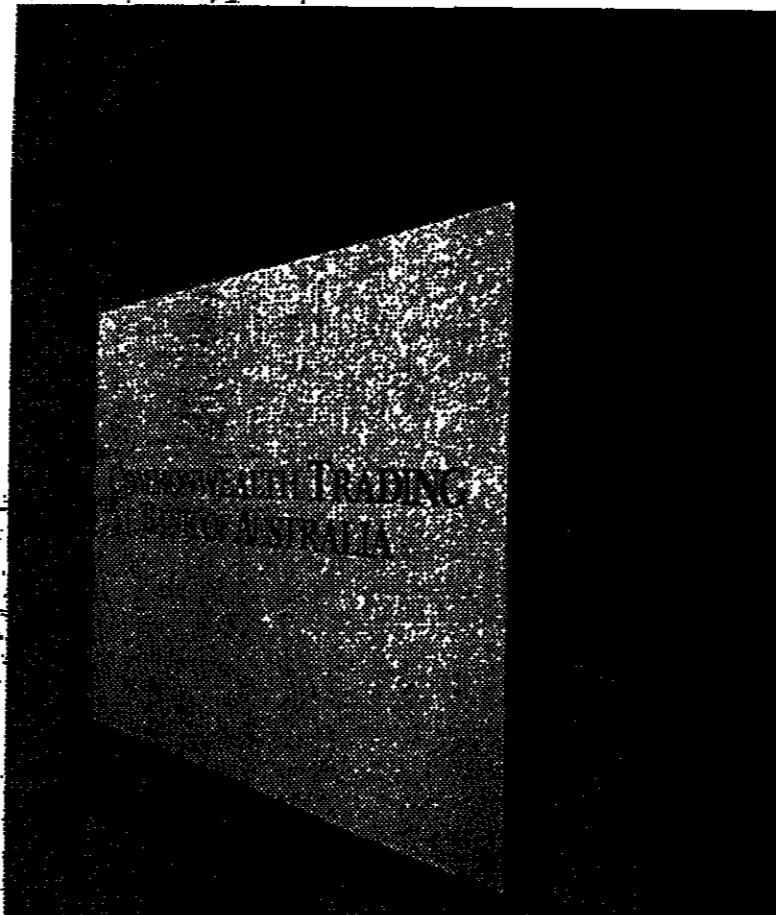
- Formation of a subsidiary bank similar to a commercial bank to develop a more focused approach to the debt of Third World countries.
- Development of a medium-term loan programme to put the World Bank into the same balance-of-payments assistance lending provided by the IMF on a short-term basis.

- A programme of improved cooperation between the World Bank and commercial banks to develop a more focused approach to the debt of Third World countries.

- Adoption of the same terms for loan conditions as are currently required by the IMF. These and other proposals putting the IMF in a longer-term lending role will dominate the annual meeting in September, in the opinion of US officials who are strongly opposed to a blurring of the traditional roles of the bank and the fund.

Australia's strongest bank makes some radical changes.

Before.



What appears on the outside to be just a minor change of name is, on the inside, a major financial reorganisation.

The Commonwealth Trading Bank has acquired the whole of the issued capital of the Commonwealth Savings Bank of Australia.

The bank's name has changed to become the Commonwealth Bank of Australia.

It has significantly increased capital.

Total assets of over A\$29 billion.

The highest attainable credit

ratings from Standard & Poor's Corporation and Moody's Investor Service Inc. for commercial paper activity.

And a specific Government Guarantee from a country with a "AAA" credit rating.

Clearly this means an enhancement of the bank's already secure standing in international circles.

Right now is a very good time to talk to us.

COMMONWEALTH BANK OF AUSTRALIA

Ovett steps in after Cram drops out of 1,500 metres

By Pat Butcher

Steve Cram has withdrawn from the England match against Spain and Sweden on Friday evening, at his home track in Gateshead, and his place in the 1,500 metres will be taken by Steve Ovett. Cram has not fully recovered from the calf muscle strain he incurred when winning the AAA 800 metres nine days ago, and he said yesterday that he did not want to risk further aggravation to the injury so close to the Olympics.

But, after another week's preparation - he began jogging again on Sunday - Cram will embark on a schedule of three, possibly four competitions in eight days, in an attempt to race himself into optimum form before leaving for Los Angeles.

Cram will probably run a 1,000 metres in the Talbot Games at Crystal Palace on July 13, with an option to compete in the England match against Poland and Hungary in Birmingham two days later, followed by definite dates in Edinburgh on July 17 and Oslo on July 21. The British team leave for Los Angeles on July 24.

For this Friday's match, sponsored by Rank-Xerox, the England team management are nevertheless in the enviable position of being able to replace a world champion with a world

champion at 5,000 metres, one of at most, two races at that distance before the Olympics when he competes at home in Cork tonight. Peter Elliott runs there in the mile, following his narrow defeat in Brussels on Sunday.

Mafe pulls out

Ade Mafe, the schoolboy sprinter, has withdrawn from Britain's team for a junior athletics international against West Germany and Italy at Bristol on Saturday.

The 17-year-old Londoner is concentrating on preparing for the 200 metres at the Olympic Games.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Virus worries Myler

Sydney (Reuter) - A virus outbreak is disrupting the preparations of the Great Britain team for Saturday's third and final international match against Australia here.

Five players were ill yesterday. "The virus has got us worried, but we may contain the outbreak by putting the victims together at the team hotel away from the other fit players," the British coach, Frank Myler, said. Illness and injuries reduced the 30-man touring squad to just 18 at yesterday's training session.

Schofield was treating a herniated disc and failed to train while the lock forward, Payne, has a slight problem.

Other injury worries include the full back, Lydon, (knee), Smith (shoulder) and second string hooker, Beardmore (shoulder).

British riders have traditionally been

Britain's maestro writes a galloping new score for her sport

Dressage steps out to sound of music

Music is the key to the door of understanding of the arcane world of dressage according to Jennie Loriston-Clarke, whom SIMON BARNES sees as not only the greatest ever maestro of horse-and-rider harmony but as the Torvill and Dean of the sport

There will be more interest, however, in seeing how David Moorcroft and Allan Wells fare in their first domestic fixtures of the season. Wells ran some good times during a winter trip to Australia, and is a proven master in the art of late peaking.

David Moorcroft is taking a chance on starting pre-Olympic track competition so late, especially when the world 5,000 metres record holder's recent history is so punctuated with trailing or even if your canter is disunited.

But Jennie Loriston-Clarke and Dutch Courage, the Torvill and Dean of British dressage, not only wish for glory at the Olympic Games, but also to help in the labours of translating the arcane wonders of the sport into something the uncommitted eye-watcher can cheer to the echo. The key, Mrs Loriston-Clarke, says is music.

"Dressage is the nearest thing to skating," she explained. "But at the moment, as dressage competitions are constituted, you are watching only the equivalent of the compulsory figures. And compulsory figures are boring for any one who is not a committed skating person."

"But I believe that in 10 years' time music and movement will have been adopted as the final stage of every dressage competition, with marks for artistic merit as well as for technical excellence. Freestyle dressage to music is already taking off with the public because it is very beautiful."

"Dressage to music is the ultimate test. And it is not the sort of po-faced thing most people think of as dressage. Events are won by flair, should encourage better riding, better training, becoming more and more enjoyable and less and less... well, one mustn't say Germanic."

As the sport now stands, dressage is a thousand miles away from any casual spectator. If you have sat on a horse, then you can start to guess just how much technical mastery is needed on the part of horse and rider to perform, say, flying changes of leg on every stride, but the fact that dressage is extraordinarily difficult does not make it compelling.

"It should look easy, not as if you were battling with a monster. You should be able to do it with one hand on the reins. It should be elegant, not Tarzanic. Dutch Courage can perform all the moves in dressage when I am not even sitting on him, just walking behind with long reins."

Mrs Loriston-Clarke has got one of



Harmony on a horse: Mrs Loriston-Clarke and Dutch Courage

more attracted to the idea of going gung-ho over fences than to the precision of high dressage. Mrs Loriston-Clarke has done a fair bit of point-to-point and cross-country riding, but after long hours put in over long years she and Dutch Courage have become the greatest dressage team ever to represent Britain.

The horse came from the Netherlands and looked so wild on arrival that his new owner's first reaction was: "I'll need some Dutch courage before I get on that."

Bill's many sons, Dutch Gold, coming on well behind him, but the old master is now at his peak and has a real chance of taking his rider to medal. For one of the advantages of Olympic competition is that "you don't get 12 Germans in the competition before you've even started".

West Germany is, as ever, the top dressage nation, but the sport has been growing markedly in Britain.

The next stage is popular acceptance and the need to find some kind of Esperanto that horse people and telly-watchers can comprehend. Torvill and Dean fans are not overly concerned about what edge is used in what movement; what they are looking for is performance and style.

Music is the language to get the impeccable style of Jennie Loriston-Clarke and Dutch Courage understood. But first comes the silent seriousness of Olympic competition. And Mrs Loriston-Clarke would like a nice medal for Bill.

Norman's strong finish gives him title

Oakville, Ontario (Reuters) - Greg Norman, of Australia, shot a round of 67, five under par on Sunday to overtake Nick Price of South Africa and win the Canadian open championship. Norman finished with a total of 278, 10 under par, beating Jack Nicklaus, who had made a late challenge, by 2 strokes yesterday.

Barber made fewer mistakes than Arnold Palmer - who missed the ball completely on a one-inch putt - to win the US Senior Open tournament by two strokes yesterday.

Barber scored a 71, one over par, for a total of 281 at Oak Hill Country Club's East Course. Palmer finished with a 74 after taking a lead in the final round of the tournament, open players aged 50 and over.

Palmer ran into trouble at the 156-yard 15th hole. He hit a seveniron over the green, chipped 10 feet past the hole, puffed to within an inch, then missed the ball. This dropped him from two strokes behind Barber to three back. Palmer, who had played in 18 holes, having completely missed putting "once or twice" before and said: "I was careless, that's all. I was just going to tap it in. I wasn't looking."

LEADING SCORES (US SENIOR OPEN) (US dollars): 286, G. Barber (74, 70, 71, 71, 72, 77); 287, N. Price (74, 69, 69, 69, 70, 72); 288, J. Nicklaus (73, 69, 69, 69, 70, 72); 289, P. Thompson (75, 73, 73, 74, 74, 76); 290, J. Fazio (74, 73, 73, 74, 74, 76); 291, H. Sutcliffe (70, 70, 69, 70, 70, 70); 292, D. P. Tewell (74, 73, 74, 74, 74, 75); 293, players (306, M. Kelly (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 294, D. Palmer (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 295, L. T. Vargas (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 296, M. Norman (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 297, J. W. Johnson (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 298, J. R. Lyle (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 299, J. W. D. Watson (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 300, J. W. D. Watson (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 301, G. Palmer (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 302, J. W. D. Watson (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 303, G. Palmer (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 304, J. W. D. Watson (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 305, G. Palmer (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 306, J. W. D. Watson (74, 77, 74, 74, 74, 75); 307, G. 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CRICKET: The day Lamb and Botham made West Indies look less than world-beaters

Premature close by England may yet be seen in bad light

By John Woodcock, Cricket Correspondent

LORD'S: England, with three second innings wickets standing, lead West Indies by 328 runs.

The disappointment of many, England ran for cover last night, with a possible 50 minutes left for play for the second Test match, sponsored by Cornhill. They jumped at the opportunity to leave the field for poor light, when Lloyd, the West Indian captain, must have been hoping they would. Before this, Lamb, with his fourth Test hundred, and Botham had fought hard and well to keep England in the game with a winning chance.

All summer England may not be in a better position than they were at ten past six last night. If they could have got another 35 runs before the close it would have given Gower more scope today. As it is he may feel obliged now to bat on this morning. There need be no doubt that if England were accustomed to winning Test matches rather than struggling to save them, they would have continued yesterday's chase.

Scoreboard

ENGLAND: First Innings 226 (G Fowler 106, C Broad 52; D M Marshall 85)

Second Innings

C Fowler 1-0; D M Marshall 1

D C Broad 1-0; G Garner 1

M W Gatting 1-0; D M Marshall

I T Botham 1-0; G Garner

T R Dowson 1-0; D M Marshall

D R Pringle not out

Extras (b, 1-0, n-b, 1) 17

Total (7 wkt) 267

FALL OF WICKETS: 1-5, 2-33, 3-38, 4-48

5-216, 6-237, 7-273

BOWLING: (in debut) Gowler 18-42;

Hawkins 18-42; Marshall 12-32; Botham

22-42; Pringle 8-18-12

Botham 72-17 Botham 8 for 103.

Umpires: D G Evans and S J Meyer.

LORD'S: Second Innings 245 (G V A Richards 72; I T Botham 8 for 103).

Umpires: D G Evans and S J Meyer.

psychologically it was a poor decision not to; tactically it was a timid one.

At last the West Indians were

made to look less than the

world beaters they have become.

That is how resolutely Lamb and Botham batted. The ball may not have been moving about quite as it did on Saturday.

Today, all being well, it will

Botham and Pringle are more of

a pace to swing the ball than off

the seam. I only hope we are not

left needing half an hour in

which to win the match, time

which could have been saved

last night.

The morning's play was

reduced to half an hour by rain.

That was long enough, though,

to raise English spirits. Not only

that, England had what little

luck they needed to suggest that

this could be their day. In the

first over, bowled by Garner,

Botham scored eight runs, two

of them at catching height

where four slip would have

been Australia, captained by

Ian Chappell, would have had a

fourth slip. Lamb, in turn,

edged Marshall over the slips

for four. But batting errors were

few.

Quite soon it was possible for

Englishmen to watch without

expecting the worst. Lamb

drove Marshall's first ball of the

day for four. Botham crashed

Marshall through the covers, a

fierce flat-batted drive, and

hooked him for six. It was

significant, with an eye on the

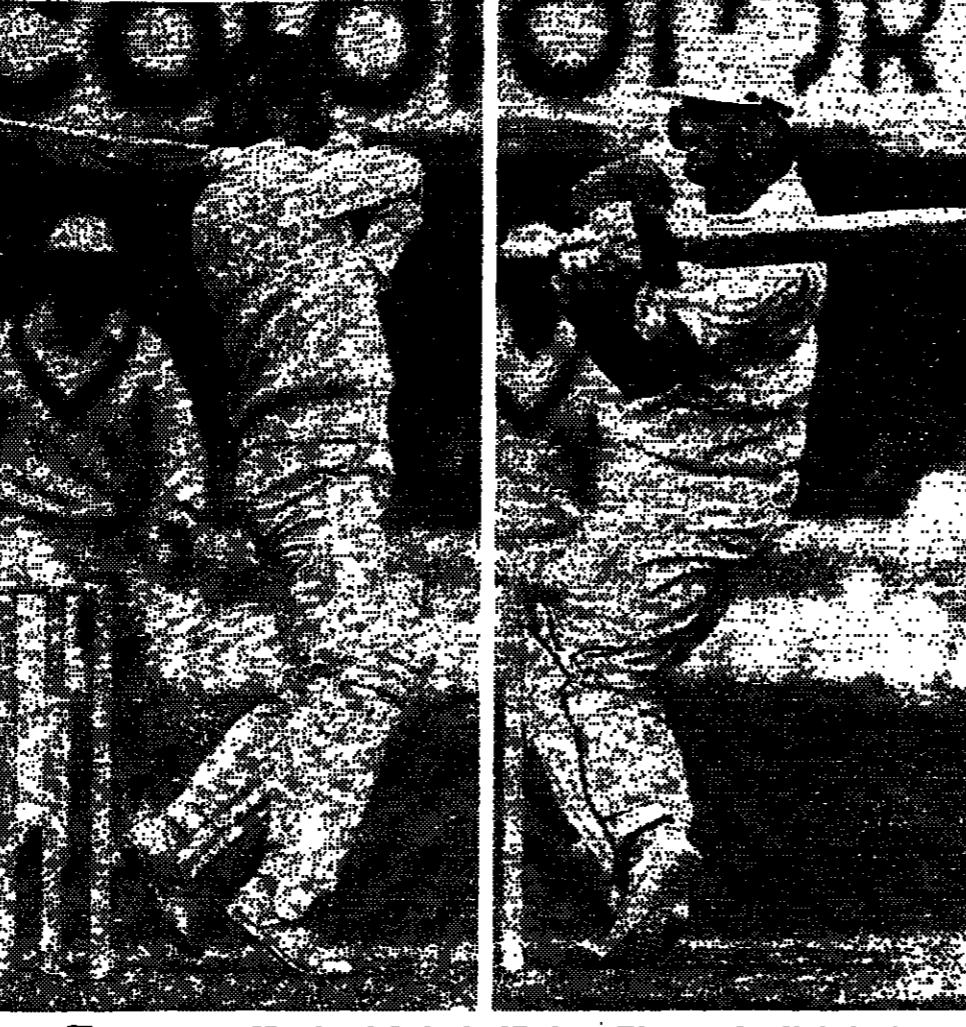
future, how much Lloyd missed

Holding.

Not until after tea did he like

to bowl Small, who had taken

two of the four English wickets



The square cut of Lamb and the hook of Botham. (Photographs: Chris Cole)

to fall on Saturday, and Harper was not called upon until twenty past five. By mid-afternoon West Indies were down to a policy of containment which meant one slip and a very slow over rate. Between lunch and tea 29 overs were bowled in two hours and five minutes.

Botham reached his 50 only 40 balls, remarkably good going when one thinks that he had come in at 88 for four, with a crisis threatening. When 62 he reached 4,000 Test runs, the 15th Englishman to do so. In the final 20 overs yesterday he and Lamb added exactly 100, 40 of them off seven overs from Garner. There was from both batters a full sense of responsibility. Botham might occasion-

ally have hooked foolhardily, but his luck held when he did. Twice he got boundaries over the wicketkeeper's head.

Almost inevitably the early striking rate was not maintained, due partly to the fact that so few balls were being bowled. Botham had, in fact, become bogged down when he was leg before to Garner. He had been dropped at the wicket when 72, a low chance off Baptista, who bowled a long and admirable spell, and he gave the impression when out, that he might have had a touch.

Botham and Lamb added 128. They were within two runs of a surprisingly low fifth wicket record for England against West

Ian Botham, the England captain, made more than one attempt to recall his opposite number, Jackie McGlew. He was frustrated each time by the umpires. McGlew had been thrown out by Statham after colliding with Moss, the bowler. The umpires, Elliott and Lee, said afterwards that Cowdrey would have had to withdraw his appeal for them to have changed their minds.

At Bombay, on the other hand, in the Jubilee Test of 1980, Viswanath did persuade the umpires to reverse a leg-before decision which had gone against Bob Taylor.

If England should win today, it may always be known now as the match that might have gone the other way, had Richards not been "wrongly" given out.

Cricketers are brought up to take the rough with the smooth – and that is much the best way.

Honesty not the best policy for Meyer

By John Woodcock

BARRY Meyer, the umpire, is a very nice, very honest man. Were he not, I doubt whether he would have made, over the weekend, what amounted to a public apology to Vivian Richards, for having given him out in the second Test match on Saturday morning to what "may have been a mistake".

Richards was leg-before to Botham, and as with countless appeals which are upheld, the ball could have missed the leg stump.

While accepting that it was with the best intentions that Meyer spoke up, by doing so he compromised his position. There is nothing to be said for inspiring post-mortems. If Meyer was satisfied he had got it wrong, he could have recalled Richards at any time before the bowling of the next ball.

At Christchurch in 1947, Walter Hadlee, the New Zealand captain, after consultation with the umpires, recalled Cyril Washbrook. Haslell was in no doubt that Washbrook, who had been adjudged leg-before, had hit the ball. Hoping that something of the kind might happen, Washbrook had not exactly hurried to the pavilion.

At Treorchy Bridge in 1960, Colin Cowdrey, the England captain, made more than one attempt to recall his opposite number, Jackie McGlew. He was frustrated each time by the umpires. McGlew had been thrown out by Statham after colliding with Moss, the bowler. The umpires, Elliott and Lee, said afterwards that Cowdrey would have had to withdraw his appeal for them to have changed their minds.

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A mature lawyer is sought, who will be able to demonstrate that this appointment is a career advancement, perhaps his or her first senior appointment. His or her will be between 30-40 years of age and a skilled communicator with a strong personal character. To satisfy the needs of this substantial commodity and product based company a broad commercial experience in practice or industry, orientated towards contract work but, ideally, also including industrial property matters and international legal work will be required.

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Portfolio

Two share £2,000 prize

The Times Portfolio prize of £2,000 was shared between two winners yesterday, each of whom receive £1,000. They are Mr Douglas Blins, aged 77, a retired civil servant from Orpington in Kent and Mr Robert Ferrier, aged 62, a former advertising executive who lives in London.

Mr Blins, was a Higher Executive Officer in the Department of Health and Social Security before his retirement. A long-time *Times* reader, he has been filling in the competition every day since it started. He intends to have an extra holiday with his wife May on the proceeds.

He has two sons, one a design engineer and one a pianist. The other winner, Mr Robert Ferrier, worked in publishing selling advertising space before going on to work for an agency in London. He started taking the paper regularly when the competition was introduced.

Both winners scored a total of 33 points in yesterday's competition, which was based on movements of share prices over last week as a whole. A total of £50,000 is to be won throughout the month - £10,000 in the daily contests and £40,000 in the weekly contest that ends on Saturday.

Readers are reminded to subtract any minutes from the total of phases when calculating the day's total.

Cards are still available for readers who did not obtain them when they were first issued. Readers wanting a card should write to:

The Times Portfolio
PO Box 40,
Blackburn BB1 6AJ, enclosing
a stamped addressed envelope.

Today's Portfolio list page 24.
Rules and how to play, see below.

Polo victim

Mrs Patricia Box, of Acacia Road, Englishcombe Park, Bath, who was injured by a runaway polo pony yards from the Prince and Princess of Wales was yesterday showing "very slight improvement" in hospital after an operation for head injuries. But her condition in Frenchay Hospital, Bristol is still serious.

Libel claim as diet book withdrawn

By Richard Dowden

The *Food Scandal*, the controversial book published last month on diet in Britain, has been withdrawn by Century Publishing, the publishers, after it was served with an interim injunction.

The injunction was granted by Judge Israel Finestein last Thursday on behalf of Bovril Ltd pending the hearing of a claim for libel.

Although Century is considering an appeal it advised booksellers in a letter sent out last night to "take the books off sale and return them for credit at our expense". It is republishing the book, omitting the reference to Bovril.

About 7,500 copies have been sent out but Mr Peter Roche, the deputy managing director of Century Publishing, said that he could not estimate the cost at this stage because he could not estimate how many copies had been sold.

"The book has been very successful," he said. "Last week it was number three in the *Sunday Times* list."

After the injunction was granted Bovril's solicitors wrote to leading booksellers telling them of the injunction and threatening to sue if they kept the book on sale.

Howe fails to move Gromyko on space talks

Continued from page 1

"The Soviet Union will find that the United States is ready to negotiate at any time, without preconditions."

The two men met in the ornate splendours of St Catherine's Hall in the Kremlin. Mr Gromyko appeared affable and spoke softly rather than in a hectoring tone. But his remarks amounted to a tirade against the West, particularly America which he said had a morbid allergy to détente. He repeatedly attacked Washington for its "criminal methods, cult of terrorism and warmongering".

British officials described Mr Gromyko's approach as arid and disappointingly negative, with no sign of constructive thinking. The two statesmen meet again today and Sir Geoffrey is expected to see President Chernenko in the afternoon before leaving Moscow.

Each received an engraved memento from the Duke.

Right, the Duke shares a joke with Britain's Virginia Wade, who lifted the title in 1977, and Maria Bueno, the gifted Brazilian player, who was champion in 1959, 1960 when she beat Britain's Christine Truman in the semi-final, and 1964. Seventeen of the 20 champions still alive were present, including Kitty Godfree, aged 88, who won the title in 1926. Each received an engraved memento from the Duke.

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Flying the flag, page 5

Past and present women's champions met the Duke and Duchess of Kent at a reception at Wimbledon yesterday to celebrate the All England Club's centenary. Top, the Duchess talks to Martina Navratilova, four times champion in the last six years and on her way to becoming the greatest figure in the women's game, greater even than the legendary Suzanne Lenglen.

Right, the Duke shares a joke with Britain's Virginia Wade, who lifted the title in 1977, and Maria Bueno, the gifted Brazilian player, who was champion in 1959, 1960 when she beat Britain's Christine Truman in the semi-final, and 1964. Seventeen of the 20 champions still alive were present, including Kitty Godfree, aged 88, who won the title in 1926. Each received an engraved memento from the Duke.

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Flying the flag, page 5

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements

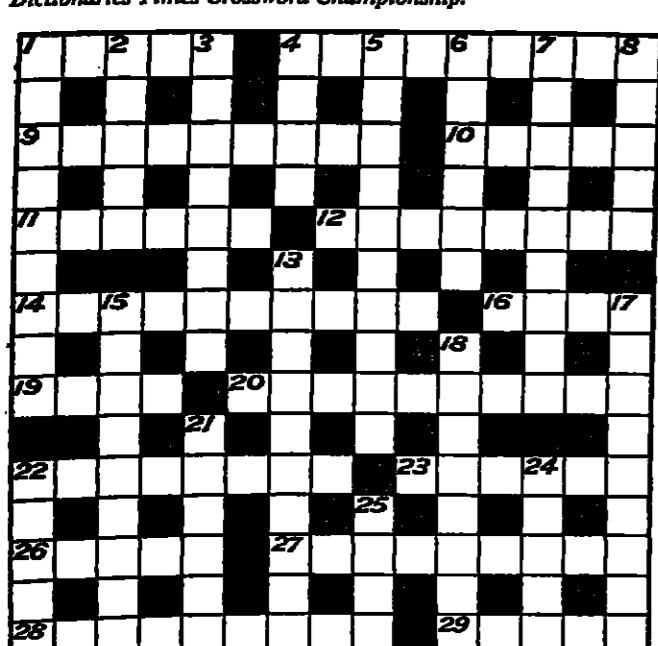
The Queen and The Duke of Edinburgh attend a Service of Installation of the Knights of the Thistle in St Giles' Cathedral, Edinburgh, 11.30; and later the Queen visits an exhibition to mark the centenary of the Royal Scottish Geographical Society, 3.30.

The Duke of Edinburgh attends a Reception at the Palace of Holyroodhouse, Edinburgh, for young people who have reached the Gold Standard in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, 3.30.

The Duke of Kent visits the Royal Show at the National Agricultural Centre, Stoneleigh, 10.30.

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,472

This puzzle was solved within 30 minutes by 15 per cent of the competitors at this year's Bristol regional final of the Collins Dictionaries Times Crossword Championship.



ACROSS
1 Healthy state of Ulysses' character (5).
4 Ambitious type up with the lark? (4-5).
5 Units seen in one Eastern country or another (9).
10 Bad spelling perhaps, in Daily Mail's leader? (5).
11 An import subject to current control (6).
12 Associate, that is, goodly collection of beliefs (8).
14 Spanish area one found in English city (3,7).
16 Manx without Dutch or German composer (4).
19 Confederate may be loyal, nonetheless (4).
20 Project for one in Kipling's book company (6).
22 Chanteuse not loud? No, by no means (5).
24 Strikr from following out Alfred's letters (5).
25 Cardboard shows a way to stem for (4).
Solutions of Puzzle No 16,471

DOWNS
1 Yacht copper was impressed with (9).
2 Record error derisively - double entry system's what you need (5).
3 Belligerent and stingy type, in the main (3-2-3).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 8

TV top ten

National top ten television programmes in the week ending June 24.

1 Children's Royal Variety Perf. LWT, 12.15m
2 Coronation Street (Sun) (Wed), Granada, 12.10m
3 Coronation Street (Mon) Granada, 11.45m
4 Crossroads (Thu) Central, 11.00m
5 Crossroads (Tue) Central, 11.00m
6 Crossroads (Tue) Central, 11.00m
7 Winter Tales At Yorkshire, 9.00m
8 Morecambe and Wise Show Thames, 9.00m
9 News at Ten (Wed) ITN, 9.00m
10 The Gentle Touch LWT, 9.05m

BBC 1

1 This Life, 12.00m
2 The Queen Mother (Sun 21.45) 10.25m
3 Portobello, 9.45m
4 Nine O'Clock News (Fri), 9.45m
5 Dynas, 10.00m
6 Saturday Night (Sat 21.45), 9.55m

7 The Time of Your Life, 9.55m

8 Stanley and Hutchinson, 9.35m

9 My Fair Lady (Sat), 9.00m

10 Valentine Music Show, 7.55m

BBC 2

1 The Two Ronnies, 7.30m

2 The Young Ones, 7.40m

3 Sunday Grandstand, 8.45m

4 Pictures, 9.10m

5 Leaving, 9.00m

6 One Man and His Dog, 9.35m

7 Organ recital by William Teague, St Paul's Cathedral, 8.30m

8 Young Musicians concert, Buchan School, Erit Arts Centre, Isle of Man, 9.15m

9 Organ recital by Bernard Robertson, St Ann's Church, Manchester, 12.45

10 Getting On, 7.20m

BBC 3

1 The Two Ronnies, 7.30m

2 Call My Bluff (Wed), 9.15m

3 Sunday Grandstand, 8.45m

4 Pictures, 9.10m

5 Leaving, 9.00m

6 One Man and His Dog, 9.35m

7 Organ recital by William Teague, St Paul's Cathedral, 8.30m

8 Young Musicians concert, Buchan School, Erit Arts Centre, Isle of Man, 9.15m

9 Flight to Berlin, 9.00m

10 Love, Shirley, 7.55m

BBC 4

1 Angel City, 4.10m

2 Broccoli (Wed), 9.15m

3 Sunday Grandstand, 8.45m

4 Pictures, 9.10m

5 Leaving, 9.00m

6 One Man and His Dog, 9.35m

7 Organ recital by William Teague, St Paul's Cathedral, 8.30m

8 Young Musicians concert, Buchan School, Erit Arts Centre, Isle of Man, 9.15m

9 Flight to Berlin, 9.00m

10 Love, Shirley, 7.55m

BBC 5

1 The Two Ronnies, 7.30m

2 Call My Bluff (Wed), 9.15m

3 Sunday Grandstand, 8.45m

4 Pictures, 9.10m

5 Leaving, 9.00m

6 One Man and His Dog, 9.35m

7 Organ recital by William Teague, St Paul's Cathedral, 8.30m

8 Young Musicians concert, Buchan School, Erit Arts Centre, Isle of Man, 9.15m

9 Flight to Berlin, 9.00m

10 Love, Shirley, 7.55m

BBC 6

1 The Two Ronnies, 7.30m

2 Call My Bluff (Wed), 9.15m

3 Sunday Grandstand, 8.45m

4 Pictures, 9.10m

5 Leaving, 9.00m

6 One Man and His Dog, 9.35m

7 Organ recital by William Teague, St Paul's Cathedral, 8.30m

8 Young Musicians concert, Buchan School, Erit Arts Centre, Isle of Man, 9.15m

9 Flight to Berlin, 9.00m

10 Love, Shirley, 7.55m

BBC 7

1 The Two Ronnies, 7.30m

2 Call My Bluff (Wed), 9.15m

3 Sunday Grandstand, 8.45m

4 Pictures, 9.10m

5 Leaving, 9.00m

6 One Man and His Dog, 9.35m

7 Organ recital by William Teague, St Paul's Cathedral, 8.30m

8 Young Musicians concert, Buchan School, Erit Arts Centre, Isle of Man, 9.15m

9 Flight to Berlin, 9.00m

10 Love, Shirley, 7.55m

BBC 8

1 The Two Ronnies, 7.30m

2 Call My Bluff (Wed), 9.15m

3 Sunday Grandstand, 8.45m

4 Pictures, 9.10m

5 Leaving, 9.00m

6 One Man and His Dog, 9.35m

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BBC 9